

MAROON & WHITE

For Alumni and Friends of Saint Mary's University

Spring 2019

A GIFT FOR GENERATIONS THE IMPACT OF THE HISTORIC SOBEY GIFT

SMU RETIRES ITS FIRST JERSEY
FROM APP TO APPLES

THE GAMBIAN CONNECTION
20 YEARS ON

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



SMU
ALUMNI



SMU HOMECOMING 2019

Return to Campus **OCTOBER 2-6!**

Varsity Games

Team & Class Reunions

Huskies Game Day BBQ

Golden Grad Mass & Luncheon

Back to the Classroom Professor Lecture

One World Alumni Awards Gala

Flashback Friday Pub Night

Campus Tours

...and much more!

Huskies Hockey Reunion 2019

We invite all Hockey Huskies to celebrate the opening of the on-campus arena, the Dauphinee Centre, with a special weekend of activities! Reconnect with former teammates at many events including hockey games, a hockey alumni brunch, and more.

PLUS: Celebrate the achievements of Lisa Haley, former women's hockey coach, and the '01-'02 men's hockey team, as they both get inducted into the Saint Mary's Sports Hall of Fame!



smu.ca/homecoming



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EDITOR: Elizabeth Peirce

ART DIRECTION/DESIGN: Spectacle Group

COVER PHOTO: Patrick Morrell

CONTRIBUTORS: Erin Elaine Casey, Kate Elliot, Cale Loney, Elizabeth Peirce, Suzanne Robicheau, David Silverberg, Joanie Veitch, Jordan Whitehouse

ALUMNI DIRECTOR: Mary Ann Daye BComm'85

ALUMNI OFFICERS: Chantal Caissie BA'13, Emily LeBlanc

VICE PRESIDENT, ADVANCEMENT: Erin Sargeant Greenwood

ADVERTISING: (902) 420-5420

ALUMNI COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Scott McElman BComm'91

ALUMNI COUNCIL PAST PRESIDENT: Sarah Ferguson BComm'09

VICE-PRESIDENT: Collette Robert BSc'15

SECRETARY: Bafana Mashingaidze BSc'14 MBA'17

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ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Greg Dickie BComm'03 (external); Jennifer Liu BComm'12 (external); Scott McElman BComm'91; Karen Ross BComm'77; Dan Rudisuela BComm'07 MBA'08

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Please send address changes, suggestions, and snippets to: Saint Mary's University Alumni Office, 923 Robie St, Halifax, NS B3H 3C3 | T: (902) 420-5420 | F: (902) 420-5140 | E: alumni@smu.ca | smu.ca/alumni

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

When you receive this issue of the magazine, Saint Mary's will have welcomed another 1000 graduates into the Saint Mary's alumni family. As your president, I have the honour of presenting pins and shaking the hands of our newest grads as they walk across the stage of the McNally Theatre Auditorium at convocation. In addition, many of our alumni volunteer to walk in the Honour Guard, donning special robes to lead the graduating Class of 2019 into the auditorium. These are important traditions that we hold dear at Saint Mary's.

There is much to celebrate in this issue. Many of you will have heard about the largest philanthropic gift in the history of Saint Mary's from the Sobey family. You can find out all the details of this \$18 million re-investment and read about the longstanding involvement of the Sobey family with the university that started over 40 years ago.

On the international front, we are celebrating 20 years of what many at Saint Mary's say was our first foray into the international education space. In February 1999, a delegation traveled to The Gambia to graduate the first class to study outside of the university as part of the SMU Extension Program. At the time, there was no university in The Gambia. Many of these alumni have gone on to work in government and have become important influencers in the advancement of the country.

We are also excited to profile alumni doing interesting and innovative work, from former hockey player Josh Domingues BComm'13 and Toronto fashion executive Carolyn Quinn BComm'01.

On the research front, there's more good news. In this issue, learn about alumnus Kyle Awalt BSc'18 who went from software developer to medicinal chemistry PhD candidate, and who's now on a mission to develop a new heart attack drug.

So many great stories that we want to share with you! It makes me proud to lead our alumni and I hope you feel the same way. Keep up to date with SMU happenings on our social media and on our website, and make sure to make plans to come back for our biggest celebration of the year, Homecoming 2019 (from October 2-6). We'll be celebrating our Sport Hall of Fame inductees, football player Chris Flynn's jersey retirement, and the opening of the new arena on campus, the Dauphinee Centre, and much more.

Go Huskies! ✦



Scott McElman BComm'91

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

As we reflect on the past year, I am reminded of something I once heard: "The start of anything new brings the promise of something great". This is exactly where we are now, in the midst of an exciting time at the University. Our researchers are advancing knowledge in areas as diverse as artificial intelligence, coastal zone management, and international migration; our students are leading initiatives in peace education, food security, and data analytics. We are enhancing our campus landscape with construction such as our new arena, the Dauphinee Centre, which will open in a few short months.

We continue to invest in Saint Mary's position as a leader in business education and entrepreneurship. Recently announced partnerships with eBay and the RBC Future Launch program are bringing new opportunities for research and work-integrated experiences to our students, which accelerate entrepreneurship and business across the region. We are proud to host regional and national student events such as the Starting Point Entrepreneurship Conference and Venture Capital Investment Competitions. These events attract top students to Saint Mary's for academic growth, personal development and spirited competition and, in turn, our student teams continue to compete and win proudly under our banner around the world.

This spring also marked an extraordinary and transformational gift of \$18 million from the Sobey family and Sobey's to the Sobey School of Business. The largest gift in our history, this strategic reinvestment in the Sobey School will drive the next phase of excellence and innovation in teaching, research, and the practice of business education that we are known for at Saint Mary's.

The past semester also brought changes to campus leadership. At convocation in May, alumnus Michael Durland BComm'87 DComm'10, was installed as our Chancellor, replacing Paul D. Sobey DComm '11. The appointment builds on Michael's long-standing involvement in the University through his support of our students as a mentor and champion. In addition, Michael and his wife Catherine BComm'87 continue to show their philanthropic support through the Durland Innovation Fund and Durland Scholarships.

It is indeed an exciting time at Saint Mary's!

As always, thank you for your ongoing support of Saint Mary's. Your energy, ideas, commitment, and engagement are what keep us strong and doing what we do. ✦



Robert Summerby-Murray

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

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING HERE

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



DR. VESSEY'S AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AWARDED \$1.2M IN FUNDING

Dr. Kevin Vessey's research into how poor-quality, marginal land can be used to produce biomass as a potential revenue stream for farmers received \$1.2 million in federal and provincial funding. The Saint Mary's Biology professor is leading a five-year project to determine what substances and organisms best promote plant growth and decrease production costs in a variety of plants.

"The long-term goal of my research is to enhance the bioeconomy, the part of the economy that uses renewable biological resources from the land and sea of Nova Scotia," said Vessey.



SMU MODEL UN GROUP RETURNS FROM NEW YORK WITH TWO AWARDS

A team of 20 Saint Mary's students led by Dr. Marc Doucet, Chair of Political Science, shone at the National Model UN conference in New York this past March. They won a Distinguished Delegation Award for their work

representing Kuwait, and students Yankun Li and Hannah Shuttleworth won an Outstanding Position Paper award for their pre-conference preparations for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The event attracts more than 5,500 students from some 200 universities around the world.

SOBEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS MBA RANKED 8TH IN THE WORLD FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The Sobeys School of Business was ranked eighth in the world for sustainability in the Corporate Knights Better World MBA ranking, released in November 2018. The school attributes its success to the way sustainable development and ethics are deeply embedded in its courses, the strong ethnic and gender diversity of its students and faculty, and the faculty's extensive research on sustainability themes. Corporate Knights assessed 141 business schools across 25 countries for its rankings.



TRIP TO THE GAMBIA UNCOVERS LITTLE-KNOWN CHAPTER OF CANADIAN WAR HISTORY

Students preparing for a field school trip to The Gambia this past November discovered that 10 Canadian WWII airmen were buried in the Fajara War Cemetery. "It's a piece of our history that had possibly been lost or at least not very well known until now," said Dr. Cathy Conrad, a professor in Geography and Environmental Studies. The students laid wreaths on the graves during a Remembrance Day ceremony and did additional research on the fallen airmen.



DAVID SOBEY CENTRE PARTNERS IN EBAY RETAIL REVIVAL HALIFAX

Saint Mary's and The David Sobey Centre for Innovation in Retailing and Services are participating in Retail Revival Halifax, an initiative from eBay Canada and the Halifax Regional Municipality. The free 12-month training program will help 70 local small and mid-sized retailers leverage eBay's global marketplace. Dr. Ramesh Venkat, Director of the David Sobey Centre, along with Dr. Rahman Khokhar and Dr. Mark Raymond will study the performance of the participating companies and the economic impact on the region.



SAINT MARY'S AND YALE PARTNER FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN NORTHERN IRELAND

This year, a group of Political Science students at Yale University tagged along electronically with Saint Mary's students participating in the Northern Ireland Conflict Resolution Program trip to Belfast. "Our colleagues at Yale recognize Saint Mary's as a leader in this type of experiential programming," says Bridget Brownlow MA'12, SMU's Conflict Resolution Advisor and President of Peaceful Schools International. "Yale is interested in the model we use to engage with schools and communities." The students Skyped into the SMU team's discussions with ex-combatants who are now working toward peace.

CODCO FANS FLOCK TO SAINT MARY'S FOR COMEDY TROUPE'S REUNION



Nearly 500 delighted fans came to see CODCO at the 2019 Cyril J. Byrne Memorial Lecture. The legendary Newfoundland group hadn't performed together since their groundbreaking TV show went off the air 26 years ago, but Andy Jones BA'69,

Cathy Jones, Greg Malone and Mary Walsh kept the audience in stitches at the March 15 event. "The academics at Saint Mary's who study television really treated us as though we were worth looking into...it was so wonderful to have people talk to us as though they cared too," said Walsh.

SHARING THE SACRED FIRE: SWEAT LODGE ERECTED ON CAMPUS



The Oaks lawn now hosts the first ceremonial sweat lodge on campus. The idea stemmed from students taking the Indigenous Peoples of Canada course taught by Professors Trudy Sable and Roger Lewis. With help from Indigenous Student Advisor Raymond Sewell

MA'14, his father, and NSCC's Indigenous Student Advisor Gary Joseph, the group constructed a lodge using wood and rocks gathered in the area and then participated in a ceremony. It will remain on campus for a year and be used for additional events.



SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES NEW VIOLA DESMOND BURSARY

On November 8, Saint Mary's announced the Viola Desmond Bursary. Established by The Honourable Wilfred P. Moore Q.C., BComm'64 LLD'07 and Ms. Jane Adams Ritcey with the permission of the Desmond Family, the bursary will be given out every year to full-time African-Nova Scotian students at Saint Mary's, with a preference for female candidates. "Viola Desmond has been very good to our city, our province and our country," said Senator Moore. "My family is very pleased to assist Saint Mary's University in this most noble virtue—the transfer of knowledge."

RBC-SMU PARTNERSHIP BOOSTS ENTREPRENEURIAL LEARNING

On February 14, 2019, Saint Mary's University and the RBC Future Launch Program announced the establishment of the RBC Talent Hub at the Saint Mary's University Entrepreneurship Centre. Supported by a gift of \$695,000 from the RBC Foundation, the program will create new co-operative education positions and expand entrepreneurial coaching, skill building, and mentoring for students, including an Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) program. Gregg Curwin BComm'90 former president and CEO of TruLeaf Sustainable Agriculture, is the first EIR.

NEW INDIGENOUS ADVISORY COUNCIL CREATED

December 2018 saw the creation of the President's Advisory Council on Indigenous Affairs. Members include:

- Chief Bob Gloade BComm'93, Chief of the Millbrook First Nation (and member of the Saint Mary's University Board of Governors);

- Dr. Donald Julien DCL '17 Executive Director of the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq;
- Pamela Glode-Desrochers, Executive Director of the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre;
- Jarvis Googoo BA'05, the Director of Health for the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat and a member of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society; and
- Ann Sylliboy, Post-secondary Consultant for Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewe.

The council provides an external viewpoint for Indigenous supports on campus and Indigenous issues facing the post-secondary sector.



SMU FACULTY PARTICIPATE AS SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS AT G7 OCEANS INSPIRATION EXPO

Three Saint Mary's University faculty members provided their expertise at the G7 Oceans Summit at the Halifax Convention Centre this academic year. The event was held in conjunction with the G7 Joint Ministerial Session on Healthy Oceans, Seas and Resilient Communities. The summit, and the G7 meeting, generally focused on oceans, while the themes of the gathering were plastic reduction, sustainable fishing, and coastal resilience. Professors Dr. Danika van Proosdij, Dr. Cathy Conrad, and Dr. Tony Charles represented the University, working with 200 other global experts to develop the framing and guiding document on oceans for the G7 ministers meeting that followed.

PEACEFUL SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL LAUNCHES NEW BOOKS TO HELP CHILDREN NAVIGATE CONFLICT

Resolving conflict can be tricky enough for adults, but a new series of books published by Saint Mary's University aims to help children better understand and resolve



conflicts respectfully and peacefully. Peaceful Schools International launched the trio of books in the fall semester, in conjunction with the university and the Saint Mary's University Students' Association (SMUSA). All three were written by Amelia Penney-Crocker, a Grade 8 student at Oxford School, while her two best friends Ruby Jangaard and Marin DeWolfe created the engaging illustrations. The stories were created for local elementary schools and the Northern Ireland Conflict Resolution Program, now in its 14th year of providing conflict resolution training to SMU students in the faculties of Arts, Science and Commerce.



SAINT MARY'S COLLABORATION WITH INNU NATION SEEN IN DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING

Hundreds of people attended the documentary screening of *Nakatuenita: Respect* which was co-produced by Richard Nuna, Innu Nation, and Dr. Trudy Sable, Community Conservation Research Network (Saint Mary's University) and directed by filmmaker Kent Martin. The documentary tells the story of Ntesinan, a

once peaceful territory where Innu families lived in tents, hunted for survival, and learned "Nutshimit" (country) skills and the fragile relationship between humans and animals from their elders. Their culture is one of respect: respect for the land, plants, animals, and each other. Although the memories of the past remain strong, the Innu now adapt to cultural and spiritual disruption. Successful in taking control of their schools in 2009 and income support two years ago, the Innu look to the future of their land, social services, schools, and government.



SAINT MARY'S HOSTS PUBLIC PANEL ON INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

This fall Saint Mary's University hosted an engaging public panel discussion that served as a precursor to the Halifax International Security Forum's three-day annual conference. The panel, entitled "Discord, Disruptions, Disorder: A World Without International Institutions," is the result of a partnership between the Halifax International Security Forum, Dalhousie University, and Saint Mary's. The panel featured global experts to foster discussion among decision-makers and opinion-leaders from around the world about what the future holds for international institutions and partnerships.

SAINT MARY'S VENTURE CAPITAL STUDENTS INVEST IN HAIRCUT HOUSE CALLS

House calls for haircuts proved to be a cut above the competition and too good an investment to pass up for Saint Mary's University's Venture Grade Fund. The fund invested \$15,000 in Cribcut, an online booking service that connects consumers with top hair stylists that bring the salon to them. The fund is a student-raised and run venture capital fund, and the first of its kind in Canada. Should the company experience a successful exit, investors like Venture Grade will receive a payout scaled to the purchase.

ELEVATING THE *Sobey School of Business* THROUGH TRANSFORMATIONAL PHILANTHROPY

KATE ELLIOT BA'12



David Sobey telling the story of the Sobey connection to Saint Mary's and announcing an \$18M investment to the Sobey School of Business.

On March 21, more than 500 people in the McNally Auditorium burst into applause when they heard David Sobey announce the largest philanthropic gift ever made to Saint Mary's University. There were audible gasps and a full standing ovation when he confirmed the amount of the gift: 18 million dollars. It was truly a day for the history books.

Since the announcement, campus has been buzzing with excitement. A gift of this size is monumental for any organization, but for our university, its impact will be extraordinary. But

this gift didn't happen overnight. In fact, some would say it was more than 50 years in the making.

FOUNDATIONS OF THE FUTURE

The Sobey family's legacy stretches back to the grocery giant's founder Frank H. Sobey. Not having access to post-secondary education, he instilled a belief in the transformative power of education in his family and his company.

The Sobey family and Sobeys Inc. have longstanding ties to Saint Mary's. In 1975, Frank H. Sobey donated

to the university's development fund and the family has been contributing to our philanthropic endeavours ever since. In 1992, the Faculty of Commerce was named after Frank H. Sobey, eventually becoming the Sobey School of Business in 1997. In 2015, the David Sobey Centre for Innovation in Retailing and Services was established.

See pg. 10 for more on this historic friendship.

THE FUTURE IS HERE

Today, the Sobey School of Business is recognized nationally and globally

“This investment will transform business education in the ‘Saint Mary’s way’ – interdisciplinary in nature with the needs of our community at the heart of what we do,” said Dr. Rob Summerby-Murray, President and Vice-Chancellor.

as a top business school. We proudly prepare citizens of the world to lead sustainable, entrepreneurial businesses and communities. Not only does this gift reaffirm our commitment to these strengths, but it will also help us enhance them through the introduction of many new initiatives:

- **The Sobey Innovators Scholarship Program:** this program will support 150 students over the next ten years with the goal of attracting the brightest, most entrepreneurial, and most fearless business students in the country to Saint Mary’s University and the Sobey School of Business.
- **Substantial faculty growth:** this includes two endowed chairs, five professorships (one for every department of the Sobey School for 10 years), and two new post-doctoral fellows, furthering a commitment to attract and keep the highest-quality faculty and researchers.
- **The Sobey Entrepreneurship & Innovation Hub:** a 43,000-square-



Michael Medline, President & Chief Executive Officer of Empire Company Limited (Empire) and its wholly-owned subsidiary Sobey's Inc.

foot expansion to the Sobey School of Business building that will be dedicated to entrepreneurship and research innovation. This building will be named in recognition of the company’s gift.

- **Alumni Engagement Program:** this program will bring together alumni and current student recipients of Sobey Scholarships with faculty members supported through this gift as a special alumni cohort for engagement, mentorship and other networking opportunities. This will include an annual event to celebrate and showcase the collective work and accomplishments of the Sobey-supported students and faculty.

THE FUTURE IS NOW

As a university, we look forward to stewarding the Sobey family’s substantial legacy by driving innovation in teaching, research, and business education, with a particular focus on the university-wide impact of supporting entrepreneurship and innovation in every discipline.

For students, the Sobey gift means more opportunities for world-class education and significant business opportunities. For alumni, this type of investment adds to institutional pride and increases the value of our business degrees. This philanthropic support also has an impact on the community, inspiring the giving mindset.

As alumni, you represent the Sobey family’s philanthropic legacy at Saint Mary’s and their commitment to helping students succeed. Please join us in sharing this exciting news with your personal and professional networks and share your pride in the strength, experience, and vitality of your university and the Sobey School of Business. ✧



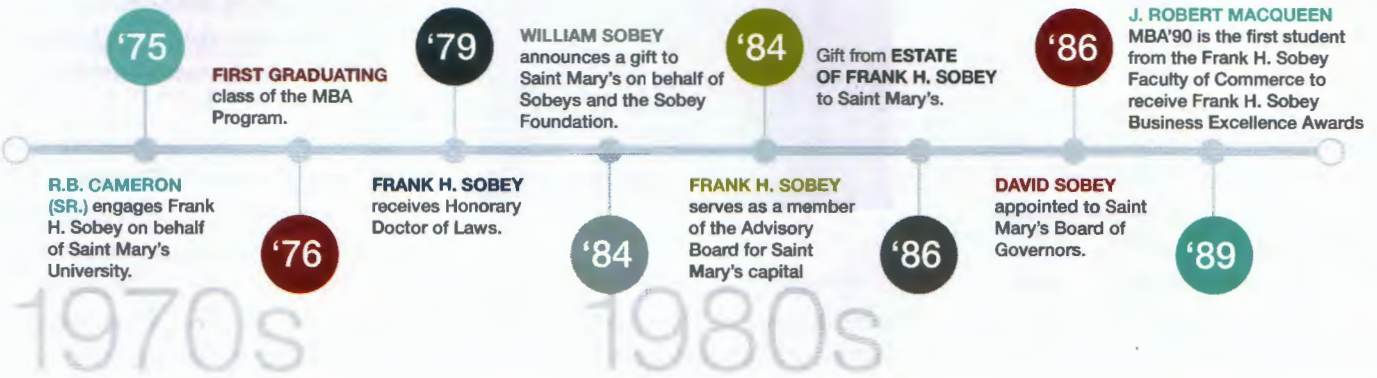
Members of the extended Sobey family pose for a family photo at the gift announcement on March 21 in McNally Theatre Auditorium.

THROUGH THE YEARS:

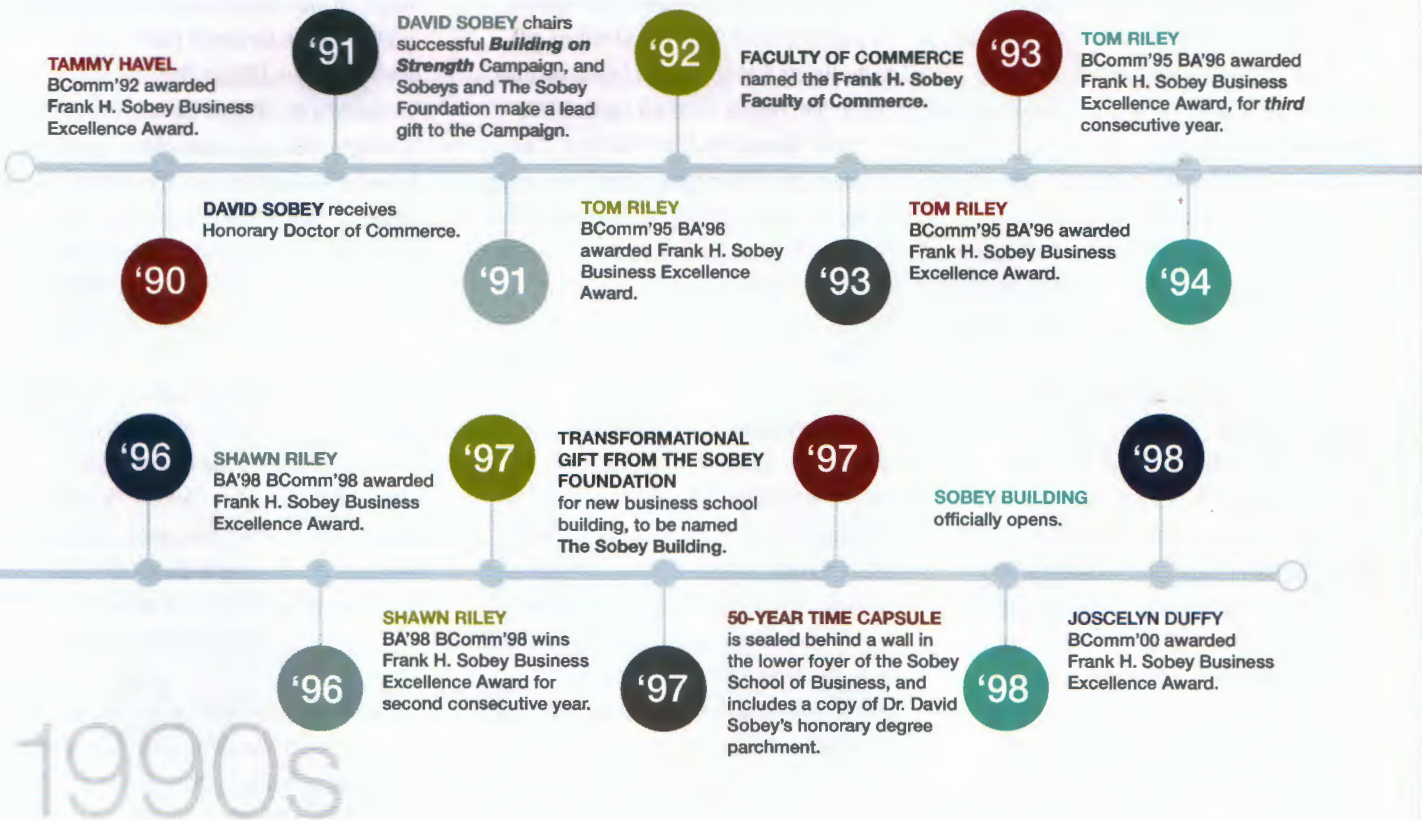
The Sobey's and Saint Mary's University Partnership



1970s & 1980s



1990s



GENERATIONS OF GIVING

KATE ELLIOT BA'12 AND SUZANNE ROBICHEAU

The story of the Sobey family connection to Saint Mary's University is a remarkable one. Spanning decades and crossing generations, it is a relationship that grew over time.

The Sobey family connection and generosity to Saint Mary's University began in 1975 with Frank H. Sobey, the entrepreneurial visionary who built a grocery empire from a meat delivery service established in Stellarton, Nova Scotia by his father, John William (J.W.) Sobey. After a request from Robert Burns (R.B.) Cameron Sr., philanthropist, industrialist, and good friend of Saint Mary's, Frank made the first donation from Sobey's stores to the university. He later went on to sit on a campaign advisory board and serve on Saint Mary's University's Board of Governors. The university acknowledged his many accomplishments, business innovation, and community service by awarding Frank an Honorary Doctor of Laws in 1979. The Faculty of Commerce was renamed the Frank H. Sobey Faculty of Commerce in the early 1990s.

The Frank H. Sobey Awards for Excellence in Business Studies were established in 1989 as another tribute to this important relationship and as a compelling way to encourage entrepreneurship. Now valued at \$25,000 each, these prestigious awards recognize top business students from all universities in Atlantic Canada. Eight awards are presented each year and competition for the scholarships is fierce. The Sobey School of Business is proud to have had 26 of their students claim these prizes since 1989.

When Frank passed away in 1985, Saint Mary's received a generous bequest through his estate. The greater gift, however, was the encouragement Frank gave his children and his grandchildren to connect with and support Saint Mary's. Many members of the Sobey family are graduates of Saint Mary's, and over the years, the family's volunteer commitments and charitable contributions have made an enduring mark on the University, with transformative gifts for academic programs,



Frank H. Sobey

student financial aid, and infrastructure.

The University has also benefitted from the long-standing support of Empire Company Limited, Sobey's Inc., and the Sobey Foundation, founded in 1982 by Frank and his three sons, David, Bill, and Donald. The Atrium and Global Learning Commons, for example, received \$400,000 through a \$2 million gift to the Hearts & Minds Capital Campaign from Sobey's Inc., Empire Company Limited, and the Sobey Foundation. The remaining \$1.6 million of the gift went to establish two major endowed student awards: Sobey's Leadership Awards and Sobey's Scholar Awards. Since their inception in 2006 and 2007, respectively, these awards have disbursed a combined total of more than \$570,000 to deserving students in the Sobey School of Business.

Another milestone was reached in 2005 with a personal pacesetter campaign gift from Dr. David Sobey. Speaking on behalf of the student body, student union president Zach Churchill, now Nova Scotia's Minister of Education & Early Childhood Development, was effusive in his thanks for what was, at that time, the largest gift in our history.

One of the greatest testaments to the Sobey family's generosity is the Sobey School of Business, the largest and most respected business school in Atlantic Canada. A national

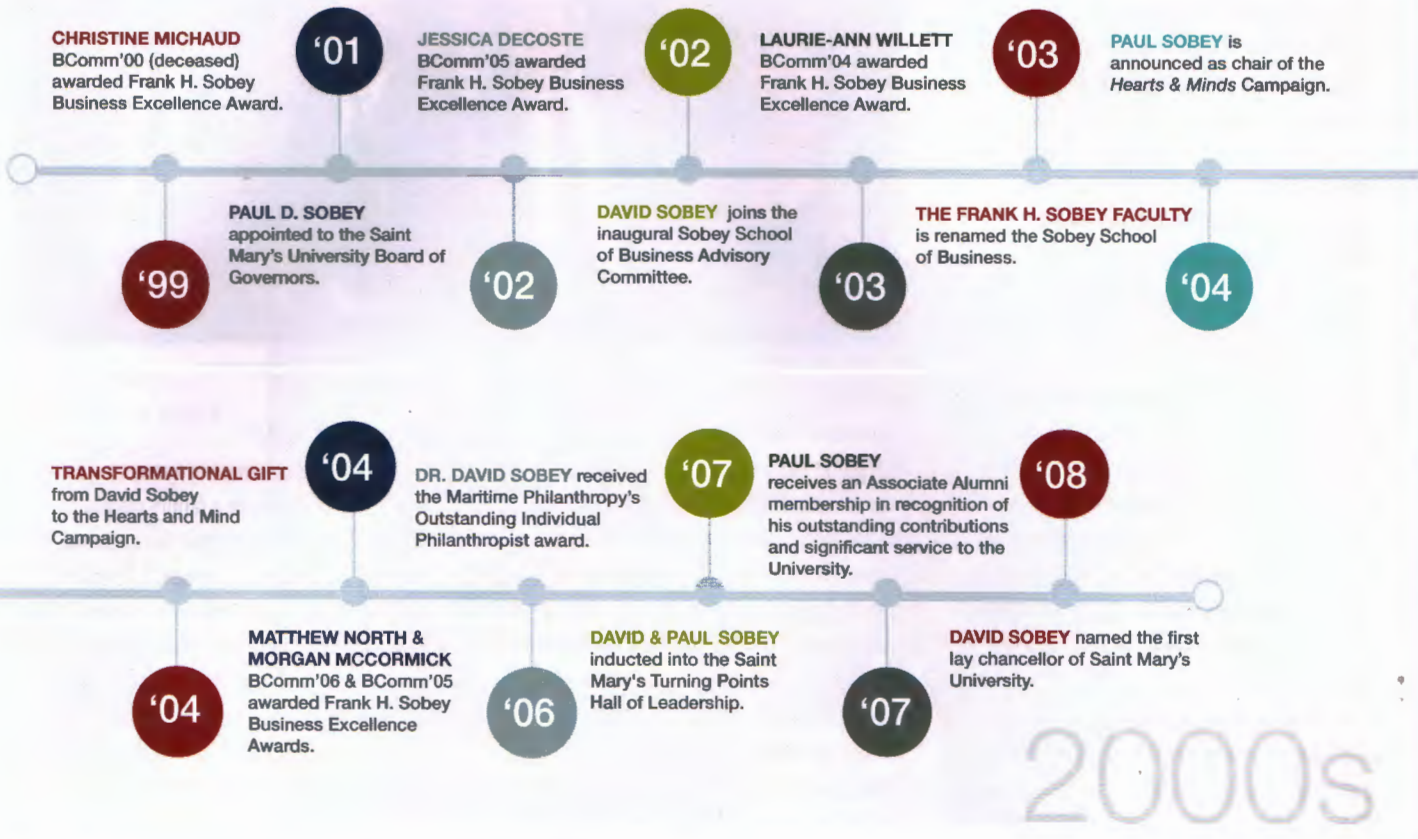
leader in business education, it contributes \$329 million annually to the Nova Scotia economy. The Sobey School of Business has a long and proud history that includes the 1992 renaming of the Frank H. Sobey Faculty of Commerce. When David cut the ribbon for the new Sobey Building in 1998, the Sobey School of Business took up its permanent residence. Saint Mary's recognized David's many contributions by nominating him for a Maritime Philanthropy Outstanding Individual Philanthropist Award, which he received in 2006.

No tale is complete without a mystery, and this story is no exception. Secreted behind a wall in the lower foyer of the Sobey School of Business is a 50-year time capsule that includes a copy of the Honorary Doctor of Commerce degree conferred upon David in 1991. The contents of the capsule may be hidden until 2047, but the rationale for including David's degree is evident. He and his wife, Faye, have been loyal supporters of Saint Mary's for more than three decades, beginning in 1986 with his service on the Board of Governors. From 1991 to 1998, he chaired the Building on Strength Capital Campaign, helping to raise \$24 million. When the Sobey School of Business Advisory Committee met for the first time in 2002, David was a member. From 2008 to 2010, as Saint Mary's first lay chancellor, he was the face of Saint Mary's for thousands of students crossing the stage at convocation.

Following his father's example, Paul Sobey took the University forward in 2004 as chair for *Hearts and Minds*, the largest capital campaign in Saint Mary's history. The \$45 million raised touched every inch of campus. As well as contributing to the Atrium and Global Learning Commons, it allowed us to embark on a \$25.5 million renewal of the Science Building.

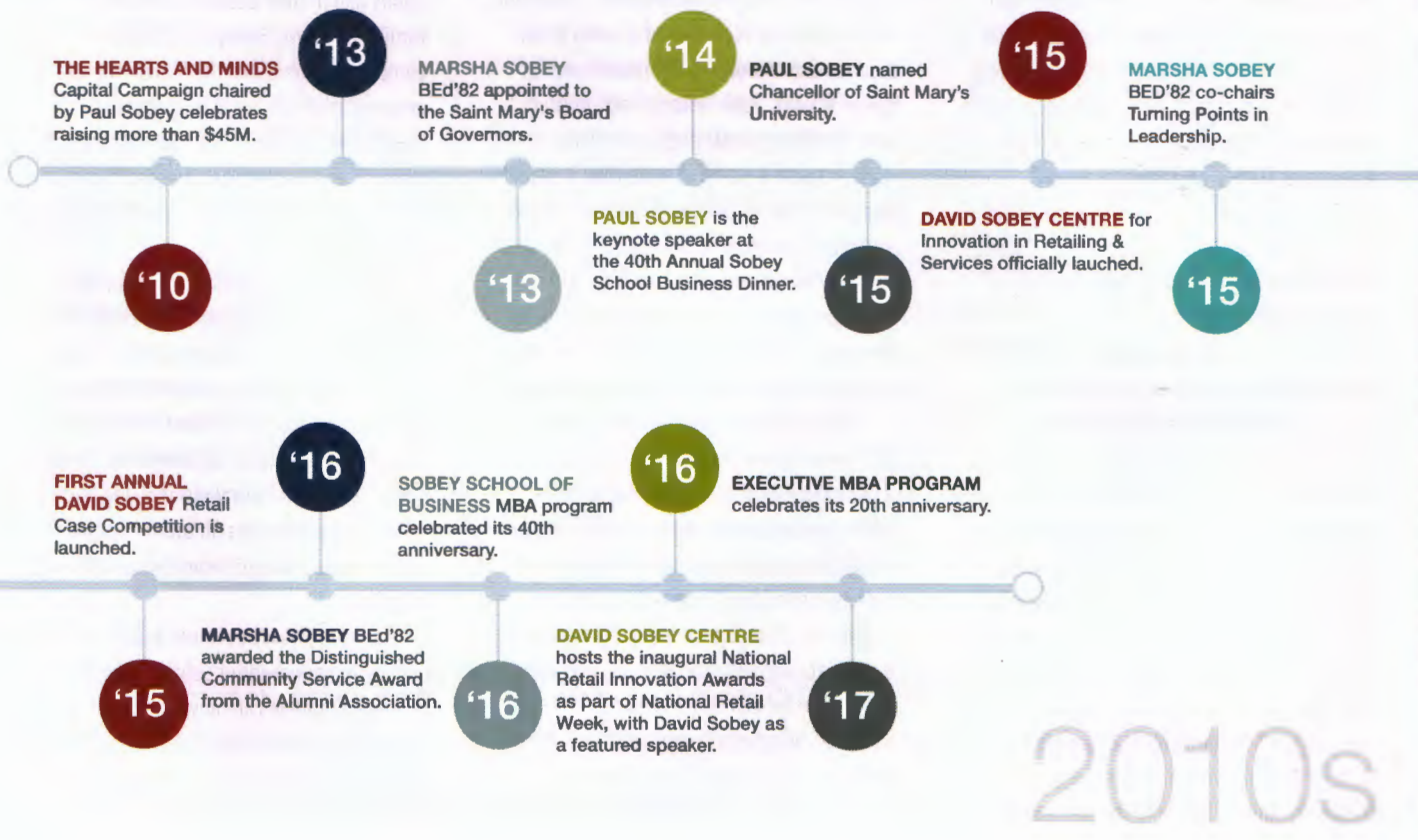
From chairing a capital campaign and service on Saint Mary's University's Board of Governors, to acting as chancellor from 2015 to 2018, Paul has played a critical role in making

2000s



2000s

2010s



2010s

Saint Mary's a special place to work and learn. It is our good fortune that in 1981 he left his job as a chartered accountant in Toronto to return to Nova Scotia for business studies at Saint Mary's and a position with Empire Company Limited.

In a *Chronicle Herald* notice congratulating Paul on his leadership for *Hearts & Minds*, there is a photo of him in the recently completed Atrium with Andrew Morash BComm '13, a 2009 recipient of the Sobey's Scholar Award. Thanks to a summer internship that accompanied the award, when Andrew graduated summa cum laude with a major in Accounting, he already had a full-time position secured with Sobey's Inc. Since then, he has certified as a chartered accountant and worked his way up to a position as Lead Finance, Operations for Sobey's West Business Unit in Calgary, Alberta. For the Sobey family, this is yet another example of the impact of their engagement.

In addition to being a remarkable friend and a great inspiration to Saint Mary's, Paul is a walking master class for aspiring students. Not only have he and his wife Marsha made Saint Mary's a personal charitable priority, but he also gives generously of his time, sharing the wisdom of a 32-year career that culminated in his role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Empire Company Limited. In 2007, the year that Sobey's marked its 100th anniversary, he received two special tributes from Saint Mary's: an associate alumni membership in recognition of his significant service to the university and induction, along with his father, into Saint Mary's Turning Points Hall of Leadership.

Paul also received an Honorary Doctor of Commerce degree during Saint Mary's spring convocation in 2011. Speaking on that occasion, he advised graduates to let personal values guide their career paths, an ethos espoused by both Paul and his wife, Marsha. A proud alumna (BEd'82), teacher, national athlete, and philanthropist, Marsha rivals Paul when it comes to "being true to her school". Her service includes membership on the university's Board of Governors and acting as co-chair of Turning Points in Leadership. In 2016, she received the Saint Mary's University Alumni Association's Distinguished



L-R, Marsha and Paul Sobey, David Sobey and grandson, Dave Sobey, at the announcement.

Community Service Award.

Thanks to David's gift to the *Hearts & Minds* capital campaign, the Sobey School of Business is now home to the David Sobey Centre for Innovation in Retailing and Services, which has already enriched the student experience by running the annual David Sobey Retail Case Competition. The only centre of its kind at a Canadian university, the David Sobey Centre hosted the inaugural National Retail Innovation Awards in 2017, an event that featured Dr. Sobey as guest speaker.

A guest book for the official opening of the David Sobey Centre for Innovation in Retailing and Services is a veritable who's who of the business community – with names such as Bonnie Brooks, Julie Toskan, Fred Smithers, Karen Oldfield, Joe Metlege, and Allan Shaw. It's also a listing of more than a dozen members of the Sobey family, many of whom are proud Saint Mary's University alumni and generous supporters.

Of special note to Sobey family members, the guest book is also a record of heartfelt comments from some very grateful students.

"You have made such an impact on my life," wrote Alison Church, a 2017 Bachelor of Commerce graduate who now lives in Dublin, Ireland, where she is working with Grant Thornton in business risk advisory and has started her Chartered Accountancy designation. Thanks to Sobey's, she managed to graduate without any debt and was even able to save for her time in Ireland. "My employers were very impressed that I had received a Sobey award," says Alison, "so Sobey's and the Sobey family have also helped

me get a great job!"

One of the most moving entries in the guest book came from a family member: "Congratulations Granddad! Such a fantastic evening in honour of a wonderful person with a huge heart. All my love, Joanne." This proud granddaughter and her three sisters all graduated from Saint Mary's University. As the parents of these four Saint Mary's alumni, Janis Sobey-Hames and Christopher Hames have a special connection to the University and are generous philanthropic supporters of the Sobey School.

Huge hearts seem to run in the Sobey family and in their business concerns. Family members, Sobey's Inc., Empire Company Limited, and the Sobey Foundation are regularly recognized for generous contributions to post-secondary scholarships, research and academic chairs, healthcare, creative arts, cultural centres, and community organizations.

Saint Mary's is happy to stand among these very worthy causes and to celebrate its strong connection with a family steeped in social responsibility and philanthropy. In the words of Michael Medline, President and Chief Executive Officer of Sobey's Inc., "Frank Sobey embodied the values of giving back and building opportunities for others – values that still resonate through Sobey's in its 110th year in business."

Thanks to Frank's example and his family's generosity, hundreds of Sobey School of Business graduates are now out in the world creating their own impact and finding unique ways to give back. It's a true legacy of giving, and the University is deeply grateful. ✧

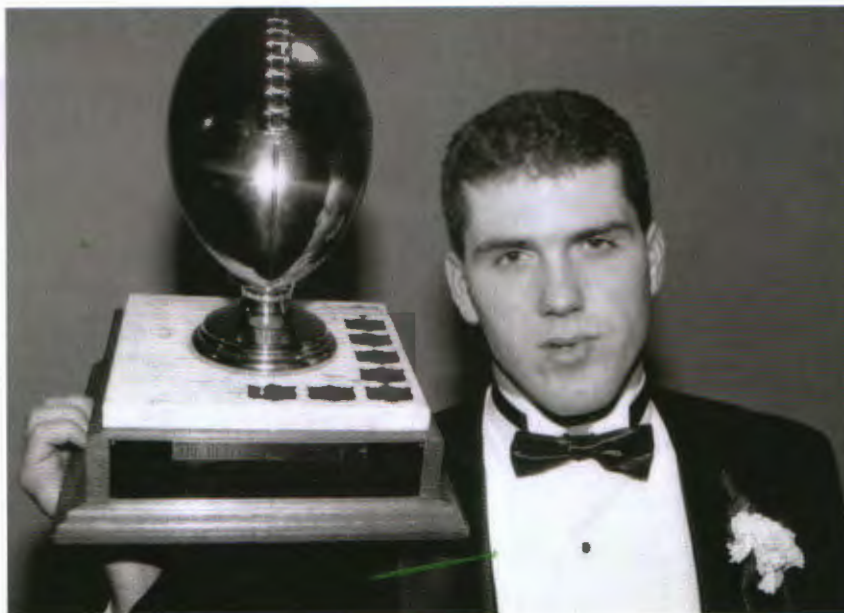
CANADIAN FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME AND SMU HUSKIES LEGEND CHRIS FLYNN TO HAVE HIS JERSEY RETIRED

CALE LONEY

For the first time in the 217-year history of Saint Mary's University, a jersey will be retired to honour Saint Mary's Huskies and Canadian university football legend, Chris Flynn BA'97.

"To be the first player to have their jersey retired by Saint Mary's University, the place where I have made so many memories, is truly an honour," said Flynn. "I am incredibly proud of what we were able to accomplish as a team during my time at Saint Mary's. Looking back, I want to thank all my teammates, coaches, trainers, students, and professors, really the whole Huskies community, for their support. We wouldn't be celebrating this today without you."

Originally from Buckingham, Quebec, Flynn played football for Saint Mary's University from 1987 to 1990. During his time with the Huskies, he led the team to two



Chris Flynn with the Hec Crighton Trophy, awarded to the most valuable player in Canadian university football. Chris would win the trophy a record-setting three times.

Vanier Cup games as quarterback.

He was an integral part of the resurgence of the team in the late '80s and early '90s, which is reflected in the accolades he received from his peers and university sport. The only player to win the Hec Crighton Trophy three times as the most valuable player in Canadian university football, Flynn was a three-time All Canadian with the Saint Mary's Huskies.

Following his time at Saint Mary's, Flynn went on to play professionally in both Canada and

Europe. In 2011, Flynn became the first-ever Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) player to be inducted into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame. He was also voted the #1 CIS player of the past 50 years of Canadian university football by Sportsnet.ca.

"Chris Flynn was a transformational player for the Huskies whose

name is synonymous with university sport success," said Scott Gray, Saint Mary's director of athletics and recreation. "Chris was a leader for our team and someone who raised the bar for quarterback play in Canada. We are proud to call him a Husky and to honour his legacy."

Saint Mary's University is proud to celebrate and honour the achievements of Chris Flynn and retire his No. 1 football jersey forever at this year's Homecoming, October 2-6, 2019. ✦

"To be the first player to have their jersey retired by Saint Mary's University, the place where I have made so many memories, is truly an honour." CHRIS FLYNN

“THEY BECAME A CADRE OF PEOPLE WHO WERE FULL OF CONFIDENCE”

The Saint Mary’s Extension Program in The Gambia celebrates 20 years since the first convocation

BY ERIN ELAINE CASEY



Professor Valerie Latus, centre, with her English class. Teaching assistant Heather George is second from right.

In 1995, a small group of people had a big idea: a university extension program that would grant degrees in the tiny West African country of The Gambia. About twice the size of greater Halifax, and almost entirely surrounded by Senegal except for a small strip of Atlantic coastline, the Republic of The Gambia had no university of its own. What it did have was a hunger for education and a need to keep its best and brightest at home.

Four years later, the very first class graduated from the Saint Mary’s University Extension Program — or SMUEP — in The Gambia. On February 16, 1999, 62 students walked across the stage to claim hard-won bachelors degrees in the first-ever Saint Mary’s convocation to take place outside of Halifax.

How did such an unlikely and wonderful relationship come to be?

The Nova Scotia Gambia Association (NSGA) is a Halifax-based NGO that works with West Africans and Canadians to build healthy communities in The Gambia. Burris Devanney BA ’59 led the organization from its beginnings in 1984 until 2006, and is still deeply involved today. An English teacher and high school principal from Halifax, he had lived and taught in The Gambia in the early ’80s.

“About 50 students a year were going out of the country to study. They were sending people abroad to Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and some to England,” Devanney explains. “I proposed the idea of a university extension program to

the Minister of Education in The Gambia. She took it to Cabinet. Cabinet liked it and said do it.”

Devanney took the idea to Denis Leclaire, Director of International Activities at Saint Mary’s at the time. They went to Dr. Michael Larsen BA’66, Professor of English at Saint Mary’s for 40 years and then Dean of Arts, and together they developed a modified version of the summer school format to export to The Gambia. With a workable plan in place, Dr. Ken Ozmon, President of the university from 1979 to 2000, was approached. He liked the idea, and the SMUEP was off and running.

“It was one of our first forays into the international scene,” remembers Ozmon. “It really was quite an exciting step for Saint

Mary's. The professors loved going over there to teach, and we used it as an opportunity to give staff an international experience, too. The Gambia didn't have any university structure at all. We had to help them establish a university senate, board of governors, and business office."

By the fall of 1995, the SMUEP was offering a 15-credit BA in The Gambia, including Arts, Humanities, and Social Science courses. Basic Business and Science courses were added later. "The lack of higher education in The Gambia really affected all their sectors: government, banking, legal, scientific, medical," explains Larsen. "Quite often when they sent students abroad, they wouldn't come back. They were suffering from a brain drain."

"One of the things that surprised me was how quickly various people got on board with the idea," adds Larsen, "including the president, faculty, administrators, admissions, the bookstore, and the registrar's office. Pretty much everyone asked, 'What can we do to make this happen and make it better?' It really did bring out a lot of good in people."

"I think people get into the business of higher education or teaching because they have a commitment to enhancing the potential of young people," adds Larsen. "We were working together on something that was manifestly what we were trained for: offering education to people who were hungry for it but had no opportunity."

Devaney describes the working conditions. "Students went to school in the morning, and then TAs were available from two to seven. Some students didn't have electricity at home, but they always came in very well prepared." Professors came from



Dr. John Young (now Professor Emeritus) conducting a Chemistry class.

Saint Mary's and other universities, including Dalhousie. "They worked for minimal salary, sessional pay. Travel and housing was provided, and the whole structure worked."

The Gambian students were eager to learn and a pleasure to teach,

gigantic leap of faith in so many ways," she says. "I made an initial trip to The Gambia with Elizabeth Chard, who was our Registrar. Just to see her interacting with the students there, and the sparkle of those connections. The logistics just

"The SMUEP experience is a classic example of what benefit humanity could gain from creative North-South cooperation."

MOMODOU SABALLY BA'99

and "everybody was impressed by their level of commitment and work ethic and background," according to Larsen. In the 2006 book *Partners for Progress: A Canada-Africa Venture in University Building*, Larsen writes that "many professors in the SMUEP claimed that it was the highlight of their academic career."

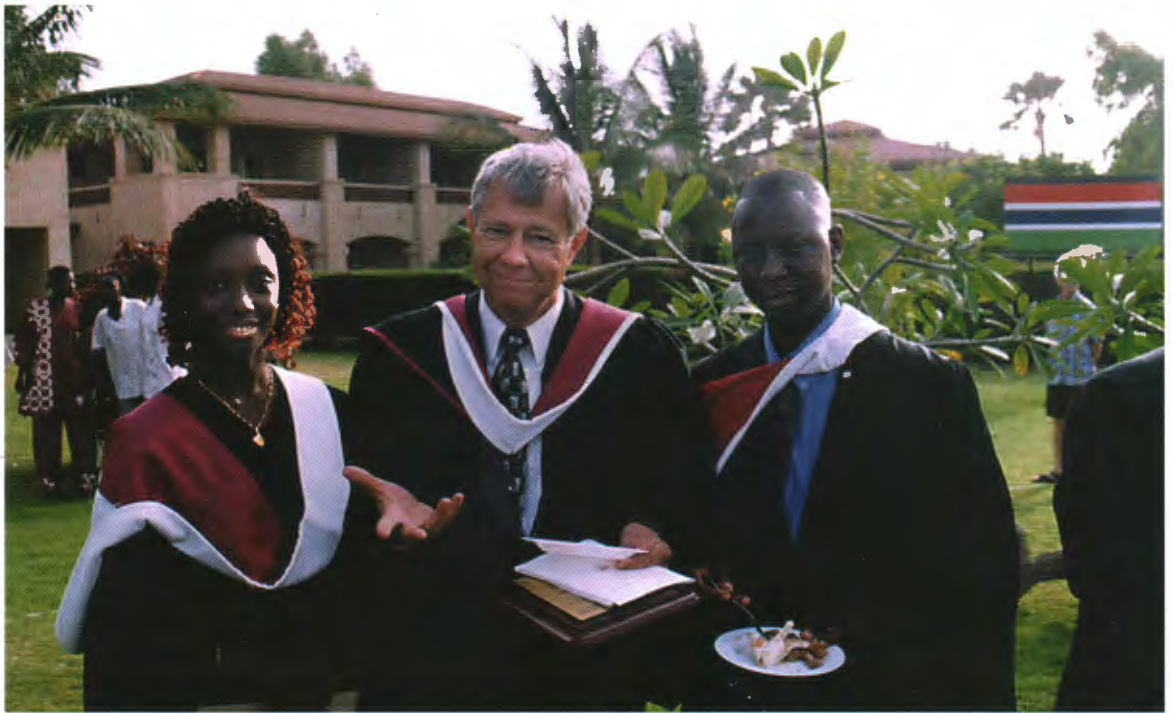
Heidi Taylor was the Program Manager of the International Activities Office for about 20 years and retired in 2007. She was the primary liaison amongst all the different stakeholders. "It was a

sort of melted away."

It's been exactly 20 years since that first Gambian convocation. The ceremony took place at the Kairaba Beach Hotel in Banjul. The proceedings were played in their entirety on Gambian radio and television, and covered extensively in print media. It was, after all, the first university convocation ever to take place on Gambian soil. The country's President attended, in addition to many other dignitaries.

Valedictorian Momodou Sabally BA'99 remembers well the enormous pressure he was under to make his

NSGA Executive
Director Burris
Devanney with
graduates
Musukebba Ceesay
and Nyakassi
Sanyang



speech count. “It felt like having to take a penalty that would be a decider for your national team in a crucial international soccer game.”

In *Partners for Progress*, Sabally writes of his classmates on that day that “you could sense the pride, joy, and fulfillment they exuded. They were the ladies and gentlemen to be admitted into the prestigious Saint Mary’s University Alumni Association that spans the length and breadth of the world.”

Murray Wilson BA’65 BEd’70, Associate Registrar from 1972 to 2007, remembers feeling excited but a little overwhelmed. “After I got over the initial shock of the convocation happening over there, it was fantastic,” he laughs. “When Elizabeth told me, I nearly fell under my desk! The second shock was all of the things necessary for the convocation — the regalia, the hoods, all that had to be shipped. We all went: Elizabeth, me, Mike, Keith Hotchkiss BA’73 from Student Services, the President of the Student Association Trevor O’Brien, Public Affairs Officer Paul

Fitzgerald BA’97 MA’06, President Ken Ozmon. It was quite a parade!”

“I was responsible for the parchments,” adds Wilson. “I thought: these have to stay in my hot little hands from Halifax to The Gambia. And they did not leave my person from here to there.”

The significance of the SMUEP to development in The Gambia cannot be overstated. In 1996, Saint Mary’s received substantial Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funding for a project to build Gambian capacity for providing higher education. This, in collaboration with Gambian efforts, resulted in the Gambian government passing an act establishing the University of The Gambia in 1999.

The SMUEP ended in May 2000. A total of 385 students had participated in the program. Of those, 174 had graduated. Another 100 earned Saint Mary’s degrees through transfer credits from the University of The Gambia and other institutions, with a few transferring to Saint Mary’s in Halifax. In the end, the SMUEP graduated nearly

300 students.

“SMUEP graduates can be found in every nook and cranny of The Gambia’s workforce,” says Sabally. “The current Environment Minister is one of them. The head of The Gambia Revenue Authority and his Deputy, the Director of the National Council for Arts and Culture, the deputy CEO of the national utility authority, and the head of the Gambia Bureau of Statistics and his deputy are all graduates from my class.”

Sabally himself has had an incredible career. He is currently CEO of his own consulting firm, Pen’s Den Consulting, and President of Sabally Leadership Academy, a youth empowerment foundation. He has also held more than half a dozen key positions in the Gambian government, including Minister of Presidential Affairs and Head of the Civil Service. Sabally recently published a memoir and released a film about his experiences with the SMUEP.

“My educational experience with SMUEP was the foundation upon

which all my achievements were built,” he says. He now holds a master’s degree in economic policy from Georgia State University.

One of Sabally’s classmates, Abdou Jeng BA’99, agrees. “Really, this opportunity opened a series of benefits in my life. I feel privileged to have a Saint Mary’s degree. I am now with The Gambia Customs and Excise Department as manager at the post-clearance audit unit. From 2012 to 2018, I was in Dakar as the Customs/Commercial Attaché at the Gambian Embassy in Senegal.” He now holds a masters in international relations.

Sabally adds, “The SMUEP experience is a classic example of what benefit humanity could gain from creative North-South cooperation.”

In 2018, Burris Devanney and his wife Louanne visited The Gambia.

They were invited to the home of Yankuba Darboe BA’99, the first president of the SMUEP student union, and his wife Rohie Bitraye, another SMUEP ’99 graduate.

“Yankuba was in charge of the Gambian Revenue Authority and his wife was Permanent Secretary of the Environment Ministry. We went for Saturday lunch with at least a dozen people who had been through the SMUEP. Among them were two ministers of government, at least three provincial secretaries, and people who ran things like the national archives and other agencies and departments.”

“They became a cadre of people who were full of confidence, educated, and they all knew each other and worked to assist the public sector of their country. That wouldn’t have happened without the SMUEP. Even the ones who

went away as grad students came back and resumed their roles in the cadre.”

After lunch, someone handed Devanney a cell phone. “It was the new president of The Gambia, Adama Barrow. I didn’t know him but I spoke to him!” he laughs. “This is where these people are — they are very, very influential in how the country is being run.” ✦

Burris Devanney’s new book, *The Gambia Saga*, published by New World Publishing, will be launched on the evening of Thursday, May 30th at Saint Mary’s University in the McNally Auditorium. The book covers his work in The Gambia over a span of 38 years, including the 34-year history of the Nova Scotia Gambia Association. Everyone is welcome. All royalties from book sales will go toward NSGA’s work. Find out more about the Nova Scotia Gambia Association at: www.facebook.com/novascotiagambia/



GET INVOLVED

The Alumni Office is always on the lookout for ways to engage and highlight our alumni. Here are a few ways you can get involved:



Join Alumni Council

SMU Alumni is looking for new Alumni Council members to help consult on events and programs for students and alumni. Members are expected to attend 6 meetings per year and sit on at least one committee.

Contact alumni@smu.ca and submit a cover letter and resume by August 10, 2019.

Alumni Awards

We love to celebrate outstanding alumni who have made an impact and do incredible work in their communities.

Nominate an alum for one of our Alumni Awards! Deadline to submit is June 28, 2019.

Learn More

Learn more about these exciting opportunities to get involved with the Saint Mary’s Alumni Office:

visit www.smu.ca/alumni
or
contact alumni@smu.ca

FROM APP TO APPLES: Using Your Phone To Curb Food Waste

BY DAVID SILVERBERG

It's January 2016 and Josh Domingues is up to his chin in paperwork at his wealth management company in downtown Toronto. His phone starts ringing and he picks it up to hear his sister Paula, a chef who freelances for catering companies, choking up with tears. "What's wrong?" he asks. She explains how upset she is that her boss demanded she throw away \$4,000 worth of uneaten clams after an event.

"But I could have given those leftovers to homeless people nearby," she told Domingues, who graduated from SMU with a Bachelor of Commerce in 2013.

"Paula was so frustrated, she ended up leaving this company because she couldn't deal with throwing out perfectly good food on a regular basis," Domingues, 30, says. "Her frustration inspired me to look into the issue of food waste."

A short time later, he quit his job to launch a mobile app called Flashfood. It works by alerting consumers to food at restaurants and grocery stores that would otherwise end up in the trash. Grocery and restaurant staff can snap a photo of food that's close to its best-before date, offering it at a steep discount (at least 50 percent off), and alerting app users via notifications of the grub that's up for grabs.

If you turn on notifications for a grocery store or restaurant near where you live, or a specific type of food—say, pastries or meats—your phone will be pinged when that restaurant or grocer has the item you're after for sale. You can then view the photo, a description of the food on offer, and what it's selling for. After paying with a credit card, you're given a confirmation code to show the retailer, and the



Josh Domingues BComm '13 and two of the staff at Flashfood, in his new offices recently opened in Toronto.

goodies are yours.

To date, Flashfood has sold more than 75% of the products made available through its platform.

Flashfood first worked with Farm Boy, a grocery chain in Ontario, but when Sobeys acquired Farm Boy, that pilot trial ended. Thankfully, other grocers took notice of Flashfood's innovative idea: in August 2018, Flashfood partnered with two Loblaw's companies, Superstore and No Frills, running pilot programs in three London, Ontario stores. The program was then extended to another store in Oakville, Ontario.

In March 2019, Flashfood announced a deeper partnership with Loblaw's, making its discounts available in the grocery chain's

Quebec divisions, Provigo and Maxi.

Domingues notes: "Our partnership with Loblaw's validates the value of Flashfood working with large-scale grocers. We're able to significantly reduce a retailer's shrink in a profitable way while having an incredibly positive environmental impact." (In retail terms, "shrink" refers to the loss of inventory that can be attributed to factors such as employee theft, shoplifting or, in this case, throwing out food).

The issue of food waste is only getting more pressing in Canada. A staggering 58 per cent of all food produced in Canada — 35.5 million tonnes — is lost or wasted, according to a new report from Toronto-based social services agency Second Harvest.

"Our goal is to end hunger," Domingues says. "I know it sounds crazy, but by utilizing the sharing economy and creating a sustainable company, I believe we can expand our service to the point where we can help those less fortunate."

More good news came in 2019, when Flashfood announced it raised an undisclosed venture round lead by General Catalyst.

Domingues attributes one particular class at SMU for giving him the seed of an idea he later brought to market. "I remember taking an entrepreneurship class where we had to come up with our company idea, and I thought of something called CheapEats. I got coupons from local restaurants and made a coupon booklet for students to use, and then tracked

how many people used those coupons. Fast forward three years after I graduated, and I tweaked that idea a bit after that phone call with my sister and Flashfood was born." ✦

"Our partnership with Loblaw's validates the value of Flashfood working with large-scale grocers. We're able to significantly reduce a retailer's shrink in a profitable way while having an incredibly positive environmental impact."

JOSH DOMINGUES

DEDICATION AND HARD WORK ARE ALWAYS IN FASHION

BY JOANIE VEITCH

Growing up on a farm in Bras d'Or, Cape Breton, Carolyn Quinn learned about working hard at a young age—it's a value that has served the 39-year-old executive director of Toronto Fashion Week well throughout her career.

At a talk she gave at a Toronto high school recently, Quinn offered her teenage audience her best advice: whatever path their lives take, and no matter the job, a willingness to show up and work hard goes a long way to securing a successful career.

"I was and am, and will continue to be, a 'yes' person. I would never say no," Quinn says. "My answer to any request was always 'no problem.' Get coffee? No problem. Do a 25-page report by tomorrow afternoon? No problem. I always say yes. I'm the first person at the office and the last person to leave."

Now, as executive director of Toronto Fashion Week for the past 14 years, Quinn oversees every aspect of the biannual production from finances and budgeting to meeting with the designers and handling media. It's the kind of job that can eat your life if you let it, she laughs. "When I first started, I had zero work-life balance."

Maturity and motherhood have brought improved time management skills, she adds. "With two young children, I had to manage my time better. There's no way I could keep that same pace."

As a 10-year-old in rural Cape Breton, Quinn watched Jeanne Beker's Fashion Television and was



Carolyn Quinn BA'02

captivated by the glamour of the fashion world, but she had no idea that she would one day translate that early passion into a career.

After graduating from high school in 1998, Quinn went to Saint Mary's University where she majored in Business and Sociology. "Being at Saint Mary's was one of the best times of my life. It was my first time away from home and I still remember sitting in class and feeling so engaged. I didn't know what my next steps would be, but I knew I was on my own path now."

Still uncertain about her future after graduating in 2001, Quinn worked for a year in Halifax. The world of fashion was still fascinating to her, but she didn't think she could make a career out of it.

"Fashion was something you were interested in, not something you did. I kept thinking I needed a more mainstream occupation."

Despite her misgivings, Quinn eventually decided to take the leap and moved to Toronto to take a two-year fashion management program at George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology. An internship with a designer post-graduation ("It was unpaid, I had to get a line of credit to add in with all my student debt, but I did it and worked really hard") led to a studio assistant job. Still a fledgling in the industry, Quinn saw a job posting for the Fashion Design Council of Canada, the not-for-profit that at that time owned and produced Toronto Fashion Week; she decided to take another leap of faith.

"I applied, I was totally underqualified and didn't think I'd ever get it, but I got an interview. I was honest and told the interviewer that I was probably the least qualified person she'd interview that day, but I promised her that if she gave me a chance, she would not regret it."

She got the job, of course.

Six months later, after giving a big presentation in front of some of the country's top fashion executives (including Jeanne Beker, her childhood hero), Quinn's boss recalled that interview. "She said, 'You impressed me that day and you were right, I made the right decision.'"

It's a story that circles back to those early lessons back home on the farm.

"My parents always said that hard work pays off. I'm glad I learned that from them." ♦

Change of HEART

From software development to medicinal Chemistry, PhD candidate Kyle Awalt is now on a mission to develop a heart attack drug at one of the top pharmacology schools in the world

BY JORDAN WHITEHOUSE

Seven years ago, it looked like Kyle Awalt was just hitting his stride as a software developer. He'd graduated from Acadia University in 2008 with a degree in Computer Science, and now he was back on the East Coast after a stint with BlackBerry during its peak years.

But something was missing. Even at a new software job at NTT Data in Halifax, things weren't feeling as rewarding or as mentally stimulating as he thought they should (there was also a lot of sitting). He needed a change. He thought back to his days of growing up in Fall River, Nova Scotia, and more specifically to those high-school Chemistry classes he really enjoyed. The idea caught.

"What I found attractive about Chemistry, and specifically medicinal Chemistry, was that it didn't seem such a stretch to imagine my work having an impact on people's lives," he says.

Fast forward seven years, and his imaginings weren't far from reality. Kyle is now in Melbourne, Australia, pursuing a PhD in medicinal Chemistry at the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MIPS). It's considered one of the top schools in the world for pharmacology. His current research is focused on finding a drug that can offer cardiovascular protection during episodes of ischemia and reperfusion injury (i.e. heart attacks).

But let's back up to 2014, when Kyle began pursuing his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry at Saint Mary's University.



Faculty member Dr. Robert Singer's (far right) research group at the Science Atlantic ChemCon student conference at Memorial University in May 2017 (l to r) Daniel O'Hearn (PhD, in progress, University of Limerick, Ireland). Katherine Parsons (PhD in progress, Dalhousie University) Julia Killorn (Health Canada Drug Analysis Lab). Kaitlyn Blatt-Janmaat (PhD starting 2019/2020, University of Auckland, New Zealand). Kyle Awalt (PhD in progress, Monash University, Australia)

Back then he still had a toe in the digital world, still working part-time at that software job in Halifax. That all changed, however, during the second semester of his second year, when he approached Chemistry professor Dr. Robert Singer about joining his research group, and got in. "After that, I decided to leave the job and focus on school full time," he says. "I loved the research and put in a lot of work over the next two years, publishing two papers with Dr. Singer."

That research and those papers were related to alkaloids. The idea, says Kyle, was to improve the process of manufacturing synthetic opioids, like Naloxone, which is a medication used to block the effects of narcotics, especially during overdoses. More specifically, Kyle and his co-authors were trying to make one step of the multi-step synthesis of those opioids more efficient.

One of the co-authors on those papers was Dr. Peter Scammells, a professor and "theme leader" of medicinal Chemistry at MIPS in Australia. He and Dr. Singer have known each other

since their post-doc days in Germany.

"When I first got into doing research with Rob [Singer], he asked me what I was interested in and I mentioned medicinal Chemistry," remembers Kyle. "I think he had the idea right away that I might be able to pursue a PhD at Monash if I wanted, and if I could get in [the biggest requirement was publishing a paper first]."

Given Kyle's interest in medicinal Chemistry and the reputation of the school, he definitely did want to pursue it. Last year, and for the second year in a row, Monash University ranked second in the world for pharmacy and pharmacology by QS World University Rankings. "It was an easy choice," says Kyle.

Two years into the four-year PhD program, he continues to develop a drug that, when injected into a patient during a heart attack, would limit cell death in the heart. His main job is to perform a study which reveals the relationship between the molecular structure of the drugs and the physiological responses they elicit.

Most of his time right now is spent

in a Chemistry lab synthesizing the drug candidates. The rest is in a pharmacology lab performing in-vitro tests on cells that have been removed from any biological context. These tests act as initial, easy-to-perform screenings that can tell him if a drug candidate shows promise to go to other types of testing, such as on animal subjects.

Saint Mary's Kaitlyn Blatt-Janmaat joined Kyle in that lab for a few months last fall. The soon-to-be Honours Chemistry grad was there to help speed up the synthesis of one part of a drug candidate and use safer reagents in the process. When she got there, the synthesis took 1.5 to 2 days. By the time she left in December, she had gotten it down to four hours. "It basically means that making that part of the molecule can be done faster and safer than previously, which makes life easier for anyone else working on it, mainly Kyle," she explains.

Kaitlyn was at MIPS on a Mitacs Globalink Research Award. It pro-



Lab assistant to Kyle Awalt, student Kaitlyn Blatt-Janmaat in a research lab on campus.

vides \$6,000 to undergrads, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows in Canada to do research projects at universities overseas. Kaitlyn was the first ever Saint Mary's student to get one of these awards.

Overall, she says her experience at MIPS was "absolutely beneficial," one big reason being her working relationship with Kyle. "He's a fantastic guy to work with," says Kaitlyn. "He's one

of the most hard-working people I've ever met, quite frankly. He works really long hours, and he loves what he does."

This December Kyle will head to the University of Nottingham in the UK for a year. He'll continue his research on the heart drug, and then return to MIPS for a fourth and final year to finish the project and write his thesis.

A post-doc will likely be next, but his ultimate goal is to secure a faculty position at a university and start his own research group. "I think I would prefer to be at a school in Australia or Canada, but beggars can't be choosers!"

Looking back, he says that his choice to get fully out of software development and into Dr. Singer's Chemistry lab at Saint Mary's was one the best he's ever made. "Rob gives his students a lot of freedom in the lab which allows them to learn from their own mistakes and take ownership of their work," says Kyle. "I think this independence above all else was how I got to where I am now." ♦

Alumni Golf Tournament

SMU
ALUMNI

DSRA
ARCHITECTURE



Peter Connell of DSRA Architecture presents bursaries to students at the 2018 tournament



Congratulations to the Siemens team, 2018 Tournament Champions!

Tuesday, August 20th, 2019

Glen Arbour Golf Course
40 Club House Lane, Hammonds Plains
Registration **8am**, Tee-Off **9am**

Alumni and friends Alumni and friends are invited to the 43rd Annual SMU Alumni Golf Tournament presented by DSRA Architecture at Glen Arbour Golf Course in support of student bursaries.

Register a team at
www.smu.ca/alumni

Teams of four include power carts, lunch and dinner reception.

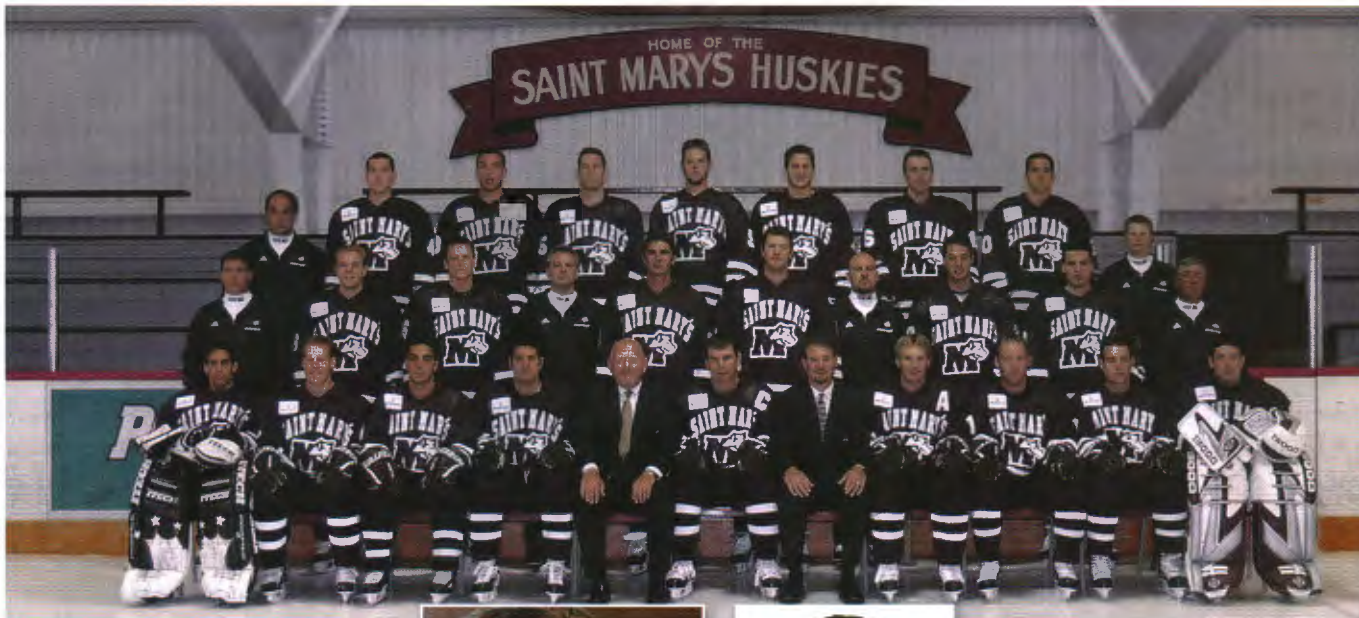
Special thanks to our 2018 Golf Tournament sponsors:

DSRA Architecture – Golf Town – TD Insurance – EllisDon – Alumitech – Aramark Higher Education – Coca-Cola – ONSA – Guardian Capital Advisors – Scotiabank – Stewart McKelvey – Michelin North America Canada Inc. – Pomerleau – Johnson Controls Inc. – RBC – Ambassadors – The Lord Nelson – Barrie & Langille Architects – Hampton Inn – Molson Coors – Halifax Stanfield International Airport – HFX Wanderers – Cole & Parker



A BUILDER, AN ATHLETE, AND A TEAM HEADLINE THE 2019 SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY SPORT HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

CALE LONEY



The 2001-02 AUS championship winning men's varsity hockey team.

Lisa Haley, former women's hockey coach, will enter the SMU Sport Hall of Fame in the builder category. Haley arrived at Saint Mary's in 1996 and in 1997-98 became the first coach of the women's hockey varsity program. It was that season the conference held their first ever championship tournament hosted by UNB. Fittingly, the Huskies won that very first conference title in double overtime over Acadia.

Haley went on to coach the Huskies for 14 seasons, earning four league titles, two conference Coach of the Year awards and one national coaching award before leaving the program to take on the head coaching duties at Ryerson University. Lisa has been in a hockey head coaching role for 20 years at both national and international levels.



Noah Cantor BA'94

In the athlete category, defensive lineman Noah Cantor was a member of the Huskies from 1990 to 1994. He was a four-time conference All-Star, two-time conference Lineman of the Year, and a three-time CIS All-Canadian. In his five seasons, Noah was part of the powerful Huskies team that earned four conference titles, two Atlantic Bowl titles, and competed in two Vanier Cups. After leaving SMU, he had an all-star career in the CFL with the Toronto Argonauts and the BC Lions from 1995 to 2006, winning four Grey



Lisa Haley

Cup Championships. The 2001-2002 men's hockey team round out the inductions. After Bob Boucher's departure, the Huskies' teams struggled for consistency and success. Under head coach Trevor Stienburg, the 2001-2002 Huskies captured their first conference title, ending a 25-year drought and re-establishing Saint Mary's as a major threat in the AUS and CIS. In one of the most exciting and memorable conference playoff series to date, the Huskies defeated the Dalhousie Tigers in a five-game series in double OT. The 2001-2002 team featured an impressive array of hockey talent that blended seamlessly and re-launched Saint Mary's hockey.

The 2019 induction ceremony will take place on Saturday, October 5th at the Homburg Centre. ♦

CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY is recruiting!

If you have a passion for higher education and a desire to enrich your association with the University, board service may be for you. Candidates interested in serving on the Board should have board experience and skills and competencies that meet our current needs. These include (but are not limited to) technology sector, public relations, or human resources experience at leadership and strategic levels. Ideal candidates will have deep experience dealing with issues and challenges facing a complex institution. We are also committed to diversity, and welcome applications from individuals who would contribute to the further diversification of our University community.

Want to learn more about this exciting opportunity? Visit the [Board of Governors](#) webpage and review our Recruitment Notice. You can also contact the University Secretary at board@smu.ca or (902) 491-6565.



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EVENTS

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



Antigua Reception & Lecture by Dr. Jonathan Fowler

This winter, we had the chance to visit Antigua twice! Our latest visit came in April when Dr. Jonathan Fowler, Associate Professor of Archaeology, spoke to both Saint Mary's and University of West Indies alumni regarding his work with a team of archaeologists surveying the slave site at Government House. Thank you to Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, and Lady Sandra Williams BA'86 for hosting this exciting and informative event for our alumni.



Hong Kong Reception & Award Presentation

Dean of the Sobey School of Business, Dr. Harjeet Bhabra, Vice-President Advancement, Erin Sargeant Greenwood, and Vice-President Academic & Research, Dr. Malcolm Butler visited Hong Kong for a reception at the Consulate General of Canada hosted by the Consul General of Hong Kong & Macau, Jeff Nankivell. While there, they presented Jimmy Ho BComm'79, member of the Hong Kong Alumni Chapter, with this year's Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award. Well deserved!



Ottawa Reception

We were busy this fall and winter with visits across Canada in Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia. We loved having the chance to reconnect with alumni across the country. Pictured are a number of our alumni in Ottawa at Flora Hall Brewing.



Young Alumni Board Game Café Night

Our Young Alumni committee organized a night of fun at Halifax's Board Room Game Café in January. If you're under 30 and/or graduated within the past 5 years, make sure to keep an eye out for events just for you throughout the year! Want to take part in the Young Alumni committee? Contact alumni@smu.ca for more information on how to get involved.

UPDATE YOUR INFO

Don't forget to update your information at smu.ca/alumni/update-your-address to ensure you receive invitations to future events in your area.



Toronto Chinese New Year Dinner

We had the pleasure of celebrating the Chinese New Year with a dinner in Toronto with many of our Chinese alumni joined by Vice-President Advancement, Erin Sargeant Greenwood. A special thank you to Angela Yang BComm'04 and volunteers for their help in organizing what we hope will be the first of many more to come!



Santamarian Ceremony

Throughout the past few years, Saint Mary's has welcomed new students into the community at the start of the fall and winter semester at our Santamarian ceremony. The ceremony allows students to learn about the Saint Mary's values and hear from alumni. This year, Alumni Council member Sylvia Gawad BSc'14 spoke to incoming students about her experiences at SMU and how to take advantage of all the great programs, societies, and communities on campus.



Boston Tree Lighting Ceremony & Reception

A reception was held for our Boston alumni ahead of the 77th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting festivities. After the reception, a number of alumni made their way to the Boston Commons to watch the tree lighting ceremony, which included performances from East Coast artists!



Golden Grad Luncheon

At this fall's Homecoming, we celebrated the Class of '68 at our popular Golden Grad Luncheon hosted by Steven Armitage BA'68 LLD'09. Alumni from across Canada and the world returned to campus after 50+ years to reconnect with former classmates and friends. One of our alumni even brought his old Saint Mary's High School jacket!



SMU Alumni in the Community

SMU alumni recently launched a new volunteer program connecting passionate Santamarians that want to lend a helping hand with various community groups and events, all while reconnecting with fellow alumni! The group helped serve meals at Souls Harbour in March. Want to join this new volunteer group? Contact alumni@smu.ca for more information!



Nickie Young Retirement & Accounting Mixer

During this past Homecoming, the Accounting Mixer was bittersweet as it also served as the retirement party for long-serving professor Nickie Young. Current and former students of Nickie's, along with colleagues, family, and friends, gathered to celebrate the impact she has had at Saint Mary's over the years. Enjoy your retirement, Nickie!



Huskies Cookout BBQ

To celebrate the first football game after the start of the fall semester, SMU alumni organized a pre-game BBQ. The game ended in victory, which was a sign of things to come as the team made it to the Loney Bowl and ended with an 8-1 season.



One World Alumni Awards Gala

We had the chance to celebrate alumni leaders at this year's One World Alumni Awards Gala during Homecoming. Congratulations to all award recipients, and to the winning charity (Adsum House for Women & Children) and student society (Habitat for Humanity) who both received \$7,500 to help them continue to make meaningful impacts in the community. Know of a deserving individual who should be recognized? Visit smu.ca/alumni to learn more about how to submit a nomination.



25th Anniversary Women's Rugby Reunion

A number of former varsity women's rugby players returned to campus for a reunion at Homecoming to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the sport at SMU! Alumnae presented their jerseys to this year's roster before their game against UPEI the following morning, proving that once a Husky, always a Husky!



Men's & Women's Soccer Reunion

Our final Homecoming event took place Sunday, October 16th as we welcomed back varsity men's & women's soccer alumni for a reunion. Here's a photo of some women's soccer alumnae enjoying the game on a beautiful day.

CLASS NOTES

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

1988

Olga Manzoni BComm'88, Avanti Coaching, recently celebrated the launch of her first children's book, *Mondays with Nonna*. As an Executive Coach and HR Consultant, Olga channeled her love of Mondays with a message to help us and the children in our lives see the potential in each day – even Mondays! To get a copy of the book or start a coaching relationship with Olga, visit www.avanticoaching.ca.

2005

On August 18, 2018 at GoodLife Awards Gala in Toronto, Ontario, **Jarvis Googoo BA'05** was one of six recipients of the Group Fitness

Instructor of Excellence Awards (country-wide out of an estimated 3,700 instructors). He's the first Mi'kmaw to achieve this. These awards are given to Group Fitness Instructors who demonstrate great commitment and dedication for the Group Fitness programs at GoodLife Fitness.

2014

Recent grad **Sylvia Gawad BSc'14** has been selected as one of RBC's Top 75 Canadian Immigrants. As the newcomer coordinator with YWCA Halifax, Sylvia has worked with countless refugees and immigrants, helping them to locate opportunities to put their best foot forward. Sylvia has been recognized with the

Community Impact Award and the Award of Excellence in Advancing Immigrant Women.

2015

Phil Taylor BComm'15 has joined the Silver Burtneck & Associates team at Sotheby's International Realty Canada, joining a talented group of real estate professionals who consistently deliver exceptional service.

2019

Arriving as an international student with a diverse background, **Ding Fan MTEI '19** quickly became a mentor for young international students. Over the years she has organized more

than 500 events and programs, and attracted five innovative start-ups to Nova Scotia through the federal Start-Up Visa Program she runs full time at Innovacorp, Nova Scotia's early venture capital crown corporation.

In 2014, Ding established the Nova Scotia International Network Society, which aims to engage and retain newcomers and help them to be successful. After organizing the Nova Scotia International entrepreneurship Competition, International Career Fair and Interview Competition, and China Program, in 2018 she was recognized as one of the Top 25 Immigrants in the Maritimes.

In Memoriam

Robert Barrett
HS'53
January 19, 2019

Wilson Capstick
BA'75, BEd'76
September 6, 2018

Dennis Cato, PhD
BA'58
November 6, 2018

Tak-Lam Chan
DipENG'70
October 9, 2018

William Coolen
HS'39
November 13, 2018

Bernard Downey
BComm'69
March 21, 2019

Edward Fagan
HS'47
September 6, 2018

John Fenerty
BA'85
December 10, 2018

Norman Fergusson
MED'61
March 20, 2019

Steve Fleming
Alumnus
November 7, 2018

Patrick Flemming
BComm'70
September 20, 2018

Robert Flinn
DipENG'51, BSc'53
September 8, 2018

Mark Gillis
BSc'80
January 17, 2019

Helen Gillis
LLD'11
November 11, 2018

Ronald Gomes
BComm'65
October 29, 2018

Rev Jack Hall
BA'72
March 14, 2019

Heather Harris
BA'70, MA'72, BEd'74
February 25, 2019

Richard Ives
Alum'83
March 2, 2019

Dr. Ronald Joyce
DComm'93
February 1, 2019

Barry Kaye
BEd'88
January 21, 2019

Michael Kelly
BA'93, BA'98
October 20, 2018

Roger LeBlanc
HS'55
October 12, 2018

John Levangie
BComm'68
October 27, 2018

Paul Mason
BComm'68
November 3, 2018

Elmer MacGillivray
BEd'59
May 2, 2019

David McHattie
BA'77
January 14, 2019

David McKeage
BComm'91
December 30, 2018

Christine Michaud
BComm'00
January 1, 2019

L Richard O'Hagan
LLD'89, BA'98
December 9, 2018

Gerald O'Malley
BEd'77, MA'78
November 16, 2018

John Owen
DipENG'69
November 19, 2018

**Sheelagh
Russell-Brown**
Faculty
November 24, 2018

Lawrence Smith
BA'77
February 7, 2018

Simon Starbuck
BA'89
November 30, 2018

George Stevenson
BComm'73
February 1, 2018

Arthur Wamback
BA'68, BEd'69
October 3, 2018

Barrie Warren
BComm'71
March 16, 2019

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TRUE SANTAMARIAN

HEATHER HARRIS



L-R, Ann McGillivray, Heather Harris, and Carol Dodds at Time for Tea, 2012.

The Saint Mary's University community lost one of its most passionate advocates on February 25, 2019 with the death of Heather Harris BA '70 MA '72 at the age of 76.

Born and raised in Halifax, Heather attended Saint Mary's just after it became co-educational, then moved to British Columbia to pursue a career in teaching. She returned to her hometown around 1988, and later she became the sole caregiver for her elderly mother, then in the beginning stages of Alzheimer's disease.

Heather's friend Ann MacGillivray, herself a Saint Mary's alumna and now retired professor of Business and Tourism at Mount Saint Vincent University, recalled Heather's pride in the quality of care she was able to offer her mother, which allowed her to remain in her own home, calm and drug-free, for the duration of her illness.

"Heather created a 'lesson plan' for every day—the teacher in her came out. There was a menu and a routine. She always referred to their 'successful Alzheimer's experience.'"

Ann and Heather served together on the Saint Mary's Alumni Association and often participated in fundraising events at the university like Time For Tea, an initiative begun by Carol Dodds (wife of former President Dr. Colin Dodds), which helped fund scholarships for single parent students at Saint Mary's. Over its fifteen years of existence, this event raised

around \$700,000. For one tea party, the two friends baked 18 pans of squares!

It was Ann who introduced Heather to Colin Dodds, then SMU's Vice-President Academic. Always eager to share her ideas for promoting the Saint Mary's brand, her most recent interest was the Salzinnes Antiphonal, a late medieval manuscript held at the Patrick Power Library which she thought should be digitized and made available to the broader public. Dr. Dodds remembers Heather fondly:

"She had some very good ideas, ideas that we couldn't always adopt, but good ideas. She would persist a little bit, but she knew when to back off. I used to get missives through the mail, and she would also call and email. Some of the letters had 'For Your Eyes Only' written on the envelope, a bit like James Bond! She had a sense of humour."

"Universities all have iconic figures, and she was one of them."

Heather's keen interest in sports also led her to serve on the steering committee of the SMU Sport Hall of Fame. Committee chair Paul Puma BComm '67 BEd '68 remembers her commitment to her alma mater.

"I had respect for Heather because she had passion for and loyalty to Saint Mary's University, and that was something we shared."

"Without a doubt, she was a true Santamarian." ♦

RON GOMES



Last October, the Saint Mary's community lost one of its biggest champions, Ron Gomes BComm'65, who passed away peacefully at the age of 76.

His friend and fellow Huskies football teammate Bob Ruotolo says Ron was a true Santamarian in every sense of the word.

"He just loved the school, loved the university, and he always kept in touch with people."

Born in Boston and raised in Roxbury and Dedham, Massachusetts, Ron earned a Commerce degree at Saint Mary's in 1965 before getting his MBA from Northeastern University. He went on to become President of Digital Consulting Inc., a successful IT conference and tradeshow company based in Massachusetts.

But he never forgot his undergraduate alma mater. Exhibit A: the Saint Mary's alumni reunions Ron and his wife, Mary Lou, hosted at their home in Andover, Massachusetts, for several years.

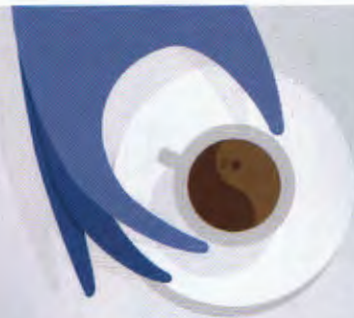
"These were always well-attended by people of all vintages and locales," says his friend and former Dean of Saint Mary's Faculty of Arts, Michael Larsen. "These were big events, with lots of attendees, generous amounts of food and beverages, stories galore — some of them true."

Along with his love of Saint Mary's, Ron was also known for his strong business acumen and his mentoring and sage advice, says son Chad.

"One piece of advice he preached was persistence and that 'luck is where preparation meets opportunity.' And that's how he lived his life — always pushing forward and making the best of things."

Friends and family also agree that Ron will be remembered for his sense of humour, his infectious, hearty laugh, and his devotion to his family, which also includes son Lance.

"He was just a warm, loving family person," says Bob Ruotolo. "He was truly a Santamarian, and I really enjoyed his company. I'm really going to miss him." ♦



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