

# The TIMES



February, 1999 • Volume 30 • Number 4



Dr. Michael Larsen, Dean of Arts, and wife, Jean, at the launching of the Saint Mary's University Extension Program in January, 1996.

## Students in The Gambia Graduate from Saint Mary's



By Paul Fitzgerald

All the world's a stage, and Saint Mary's University is now front and centre. This is how many are describing the University's project in The Gambia, West Africa that began four years ago.

Now, for the first time in The Gambia, Africa's smallest country, 62 students will don hats and gowns and graduate with university degrees. On February 16, 1999, they will proudly cross the stage in their own country to receive parchments from Saint Mary's University. This will also be the first time Saint Mary's will graduate students abroad.

Since November, 1995 the Saint Mary's University Extension Program in The Gambia (SMUEP) has been giving Gambian students the opportunity to obtain a post-secondary education in their own country. Professors from Saint Mary's, as well as Gambian instructors, have taught in The Gambia. Saint Mary's is also assisting in developing the infrastructure for the future University of The Gambia. Both projects have been carried out with the assistance of the Nova Scotia Gambia Association (NSGA).

The Gambia does not have a university, and because of the harsh economic conditions that have plagued the country for so



Dr. Colin Dodds, Vice-President of Academic and Research, Saint Mary's, explains the Convocation procedures during his trip to The Gambia last semester.

many years, Gambians have found it difficult to obtain a degree abroad. Those who were fortunate enough to receive a degree in another country often stayed abroad after graduating.

"This is a country which does not have a university, and we are extremely proud to be helping them educate their citizens at a reasonable cost, and within the country," says Dr. Kenneth L. Ozmon, President, Saint Mary's. "In a few years our intention is that the students awarded degrees will be graduates of the country's own university, The University of The Gambia." He also says this unique project,

managed very capably by the NSGA, means more educated citizens contributing to further development initiatives for the country.

Dr. Michael Larsen, Dean of Arts, says he is proud the University has been able to offer undergraduate programs in The Gambia, and that Gambian students have responded so enthusiastically to the opportunity for university level education.

"Personally, this has been the most stimulating and hair-raising international project I've been involved with," he says. "I think it's one of the most complex interna-

Continued on page 6

## Saint Mary's Offers First Ph.D. in Business in Atlantic Canada

The long-awaited Ph.D. program in business has arrived in Atlantic Canada. Saint Mary's University will be the first business school in Atlantic Canada to offer all levels of business education from undergraduate to Ph.D.

Saint Mary's University has received approval from the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) to provide students with a Ph.D. program in Business Administration with a specialization in Management.

"What differentiates this program from others in North America is that

it is designed to be accessible to working professionals," says Dr. Paul Dixon, Dean of Commerce at The Frank H. Sobey Faculty of Commerce at Saint Mary's. "Onsite elements are structured as intensive one-month sessions during the summer but the rigor that the best Canadian and American programs are known for is not being compromised. The program is designed to be consistent with Saint Mary's reputation for quality, flexibility and student focus."

The program is designed to allow participation of leading international

scholars in the delivery of the summer courses, as well as involving the best academics among all 12 Atlantic Canada business programs. Collaboration with other universities regionally and globally will enable Saint Mary's to draw on the best resources available to maximize the educational experience for students.

The Ph.D. in Business Administration will initially be limited to the field of management, primarily human resource management, industrial relations, organizational behaviour and organizational theory. Specializations in such areas as

finance, marketing and international business will be launched at a later date.

Saint Mary's is the largest and leading business school in Atlantic Canada. The University recently opened one of the best instructional and learning facilities in North America. The technologically-advanced Sobey Building represents an \$18-million investment in higher education.

The new building and Ph.D. program further strengthen the government's 1996 Metro Halifax University Consortium endorsement of Saint Mary's as a leader in Canadian business education. ♦

## INSIDE BOX

### Our MBA students are the best in Canada!

A team of five students placed first in Canada at the Concordia Case Competition at Concordia University in Montreal. See story on page 2. From bottom to top: Sarah Gilroy, Tammy Crowell, Jessica Andrews, Jeremy Bernard, Dr. David Wicks and Jason LeCoure.



### What's Inside...

- New office provides "support" to faculty ... page 2
- Patels offer even more international flavour on campus ... page 5
- Learn all about the University's extension project in The Gambia, West Africa ... pages 4 & 5
- Pascal Trudeau can throw the ball far, very far ... page 7



# New Office Provides "Support" For Faculty

**W**ith her usual charge of energy, Margaret-Anne Bennett pops her head out the door of her office on the second floor of the McNally building to see who's making their way down the hall. She says her morning "hellos," and also reminds her colleagues passing by that she has a new office and a new job.

The University has just created the Office of Instructional Development, and Bennett is the first Director. So, she's just as focused on spreading the word about the new office as she is about getting down to work just shortly after 9:00 am on that cold winter morning.

Before moving into the job in early October, she worked on campus as the Assistant Director of Continuing Education responsible for summer session programming. In her many years at Saint Mary's, she also served on a number of committees, including the President's Advisory Committee on the Future of the University, the Faculty of Education Review Committee, the Sexual Harassment Advisory Committee and, for the past six years, the Quality of Teaching Committee.

"Providing support for teaching and

learning, both on and off campus is the main objective of the office," she says in an enthusiastic tone. "Instructional development offices have been established on many campuses in North America to support faculty with the teaching side of their careers."

So, just what type of support is needed for faculty in today's classroom?

"Technology is the big issue right now," she says. "Not just at Saint Mary's, but on all university campuses. Our University is now equipped with state-of-the-art-computer equipment, so faculty are in the process of learning how to incorporate the technology into their teaching. This includes not only learning how to use the hardware and software but how to identify appropriate technologies for their courses and how to incorporate them into their curriculum and course delivery."

Presently, a survey is being designed and will be distributed to all full and part-time faculty this month. The purpose of this survey is to assist the Office of Instructional Development identify longer term needs in instructional technologies, general classroom techniques, and management issues.



Margaret-Anne Bennett has a new office and a new job. She's the new Director of the Office of Instructional Development.

In addition to the survey, Bennett is developing a one week series of workshops, "Technologies for Teaching," scheduled for late April. These workshops will be followed by on-going support for faculty over the summer as they work individually and in small groups on technology and teaching issues."

She says the Office will also facilitate

the on-going work of the Quality of Teaching Committee, including editing *Teaching and Learning at Saint Mary's*, and providing a repository for the Committee's collection of instructional material. Through workshops, newsletters, mentoring, and access to experts and expertise both external and internal, the Office will provide opportunities for professional development in teaching to full and part-time faculty, link the University and its instructors with programs and experts on teaching and learning throughout the province, in Canada, and internationally.

Tanya Landry, formerly with the Registrar's Office, provides secretarial support to the Office. In the future, resources will be shared with the soon-to-be launched Office of Graduate Studies and Research.

Many seem pleased about the new office, including Dr. Geraldine Thomas, who is Chair of the Quality of Teaching Committee. "We are looking forward to working with this new office, so as to build on earlier initiatives and to encourage excellence in teaching, teaching innovation, and to enhance student learning." ♦

## Bill Ells On Guard

When you look at Bill Ells, just remember one thing, you're looking at a piece of history.

"I've seen a lot, and I've done a lot," he says in his usual chipper tone, then waves to a group of students on their way to class. His enormous smile is contagious no matter what mood you're in.

If you pass through the Sobeys Building, chances are you will see Ells at the Information Desk in the main lobby, or doing his regular patrols throughout the new facility. He is a full-time Security Officer who was assigned the post when the building opened for classes in early September.

"It's the best post I've ever been assigned to," he says. And has he ever been assigned to a lot of posts.

When he was just 14 years old, he went to work for the Canadian National Telegraph, and a few years later he joined the Canadian Army. He has many highlights to tell about his 30-year career with the Canadian Military.

When the war in Cyprus first broke out in 1964, Ells found himself in a machine gun platoon, attached to a rifle company. "I was mounted in a jeep with a 50 caliber machine gun, and fired all sorts of bullets," he says. "We went through more bullets than we did food in the one year I was there."

Upon returning to Canada, he and his girlfriend, Helen Margaret Hatfield, married. A picture of them sits right in front of his phone at the Sobeys information desk. Over the next few years his son Clifford and daughter Trudy were born.

Throughout the late 1960s and early 1970s, he worked as a personal body guard for retired Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, and the then Defense Minister Donald MacDonal. He also worked as a guard at the home of Jean Chretien, who was the then Minister of Indian Affairs.

He moved on to many other positions with the military. By 1973, he was promoted to platoon sergeant, and went to Australia and prac-

ticed jungle warfare. Just a few years later, he and his family were moved to Germany where they stayed for four years.

In the 1980s, Ells was working in Gagetown, New Brunswick where he was a Transport Platoon Commander. Shortly after he was promoted to Warrant Officer, a position which he held for a number of years. His last job before leaving the military in 1989 was to organize the Military History Library.

"The military fulfilled my adult life job expectations," he says. "I have experienced a lifetime of events. It's almost like I have a first-hand account of the history that has shaped our world and our country."

But he still had a desire to work after leaving the military in 1991. So the same year he retired, he went to work a Security Officer at the Sheraton Inn in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

By 1995, Ells had come to Saint Mary's to work as a Commissionaire. And now he is a Security Officer in the Sobeys building.

"Life doesn't get any better than this," he says with a big smile. "Whether they are faculty, staff or students, they are all great people here at Saint Mary's. I just love this job, and I enjoy meeting the men and women, all of whom will be our leaders of tomorrow." ♦



Bill Ells on guard in the Sobeys building.

## MBA Students Place First in Canada

Our MBA students are very proud right now, and they have a good reason to be.

A team of them finished first in Canada in one of the world's biggest and most prestigious case competitions.

Students Tammy Crowell, Sarah Gilroy, Jessica Andrews, Jeremy Bernard and Jason LeCoure, coached by management professor Dr. David Wicks, placed fourth in the world at the Concordia Case Competition at Concordia University in Montreal that began on January 11 and lasted one week.

There were 34 teams from around the world, including all the top Canadian schools as well as American and international schools, competing in the event. ♦



From bottom to top: Sarah Gilroy, Tammy Crowell, Jessica Andrews, Jeremy Bernard, Dr. David Wicks and Jason LeCoure.

Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

**The TIMES**

The Times is produced by the Public Affairs Department of Saint Mary's University. Submissions from faculty, staff, students and friends are welcome.

Telephone: (902) 420-5518  
 Fax: (902) 420-5511  
 E-mail: [Chuck.Bridges@stmarys.ca](mailto:Chuck.Bridges@stmarys.ca)  
 E-mail: [pfitzgerald@husky1.stmarys.ca](mailto:pfitzgerald@husky1.stmarys.ca)  
 E-mail: [penny.murdock@stmarys.ca](mailto:penny.murdock@stmarys.ca)  
 Internet: [www.stmarys.ca](http://www.stmarys.ca)

Director of External Affairs:  
 Chuck Bridges  
 Editor: Paul Fitzgerald, Public Affairs Officer  
 Sports: Penny Murdock, Public Affairs Officer

Design: Chris Reardon Graphic Design

©COPYRIGHT 1999 by Saint Mary's University. All rights reserved. Contents may not be reproduced without permission.



# AROUND Campus

## U-98 A Lotto Success



The organizers, students, and sponsors of the U-98 House Lottery were recognized for their hard work and dedication at a ceremony on January 21. The project raised \$220,000, the highest amount of the three lotteries to date. The funds will be used to support the Atlantic Centre of Support for

Disabled Students and student leadership awards. From the left: Pat Forbes, Chair of the U-98 House Lottery; Toni Croft, Coordinator of the Annual Fund Centre; Dr. David Leitch, Director of the Atlantic Centre of Support for Disabled Students; and Larry Uteck, Director of Athletics and Recreation.

## Chemistry Students Use New Technology



Dr. Keith Vaughan, Chemistry Department, uses the new technology in the Sobey building. Here he teaches his Organic Chemistry class, using the textbook, "Chemistry: The Central Science" 7th Ed, by Theodore Brown, Eugene LeMay & Bruce Bursten

(Published by Prentice Hall), on CD-ROM. Science students in his class are very impressed with the new technology, and say that it's an effective tool in allowing them to better understand organic chemistry.

## CESO at Saint Mary's



Charles Beer, the new President and CEO of CESO, speaks to an invited audience in the Sobey building on January 15. Dr. Colin Dodds, Vice-President of Academic and Research convened the meeting, and Jim

Sharpe, Director of Continuing Education coordinated it. Later that day, there was a meeting with MBA students who will go on assignments with CESO Volunteer Advisers to three aboriginal reserves in Canada.

## Donation to the Home of the Guardian Angels



There was a cheque presentation made to the Home of the Guardian Angels at the annual staff Christmas party last semester. Presenting the cheque to Sister Joan O'Keefe, Acting Director (middle), are Cathy Mason,

Information Technology Systems and Support (ITSS), and Margaret-Anne Bennett, Director, Office of Instructional Development.

## The Japanese Little New Year at Saint Mary's



A large number of people came out to celebrate the Japanese Little New Year and learn about the Japanese culture at Saint Mary's University on January 17.

## Saint Mary's/Xerox Alliance



Larry Corrigan, Chief Financial Officer at Saint Mary's, cuts a piece of cake for Dr. Kenneth L. Ozmon, President, at the official opening of the Document Source on January 15. Saint Mary's and Xerox have formed a

strategic alliance to explore and develop opportunities that will be mutually beneficial in delivering printing/document services to the campus.



# The Country and The River of The Gambia

*Dr. James Morrison is a History professor at Saint Mary's. No stranger to Africa, he lived in Nigeria and Ghana for 10 years and completed his Ph.D. at the University of Ibadon, Nigeria in 1975. He taught History in The Gambia under the University Extension Program. The following is an account written by Dr. Morrison of his experience in The Gambia.*

A river flows in Africa – a river of memory and history. It is over 1,000 kilometers long from its source in the Fouta Jallon highlands in Guinea, West Africa to its outlet and empties into the Atlantic Ocean. It has seen the rise and fall of African empires like Songhai and Mali; it has witnessed the beginning and the end of the African Slave Trade; it has been part of Britain's first and last colony in West Africa and it has carried Alex Haley upriver to his ancestral "Roots" in the village of Juffere situated on its banks. It is the Gambia River. As flows a river, so flows history and a people must respect this past of theirs as theirs but also look into their future.

The Gambia River is framed, for the most part, by a country of the same name which is 320 kilometers long and no more than 50 kilometers wide. The Gambia is like an incision in the shoulder of Africa. It penetrates from the Atlantic coast to the fringes of the Sahara Desert and combines a mix of sand, savanna and woodland. Only 16% of the land is arable and the major exports are peanuts and peanut product with 75% of the population of approximately 930,000 people employed in agriculture. The capital is Banjul which hugs the Atlantic coast at the mouth of the Gambia River and is part of an urban sprawl that includes some 200,000 people. It is in this setting that the Government of The Gambia, the Nova Scotia – Gambia Association and Saint Mary's University began a University Extension Program in 1995.

The Gambia has about a dozen high schools and a few post-secondary institutions but no university. Therefore, qualified Gambians must travel, if they can afford it, to other academic institutions in West Africa or overseas to achieve a university education. With a few jobs available for university qualified people, many graduates do not return to The Gambia resulting in a substantial brain drain from the country. A University Extension Program would ameliorate this loss of population and revenue and allow Gambians to receive upgrading in their fields of study or credits towards a degree program. I was invited to teach a first-year Global History university course as a part of this program.

I had not taught in West Africa for almost 20 years since my graduate days in Nigeria and much had changed since then. However, some things had not changed – namely the complete commitment, intense motivation and relentless curiosity of the West African student, more specifically the 45 men and women in my History course. With a mixture of lectures, quizzes and discussion papers, we traced Global History from the advanced civilizations of India, China and the various Islamic empires of a millennium ago to the debris of the Berlin Wall less than a decade ago. Without question, these Gambian students were plugged in and already tuned in to the world around them.

My class included a variety of ages – 22 to 40 years old; a variety of experiences – teachers, civil servants and some from the



Dr. James Morrison, a History professor at Saint Mary's, is no stranger to Africa.

private sector; and a diversity of ethnocultural groups – Wolof, Mandingo, and Fulani to name a few for Gambia is indeed a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-cultural society similar to every country in West Africa. In addition, 90 per cent of the population is Muslim with the remainder being Christian – many of whom were descendants of the slaves freed by the British after the slave trade was abolished in the nineteenth century.

As an historian, I also found some time to research some aspects of Gambian history like the stone circles located upriver at Wassu. These steles are believed to have been erected almost two thousand years ago. The National Council for Arts and Culture in Gambia has a wealth of oral materials on tape (5,000 hours) about the history of Gambia – the various empires of Mali, Kaabu and Falladu, the effects of slavery and the slave trade on the country

and the eventual independence of Gambia from the British in 1965 after two hundred years of colonial rule. My son, Mike, who spent Christmas with me in The Gambia, also found time between trips to the beach and "hanging out" with his many newly-acquired Gambian friends to do a social studies project for Cornwallis Junior High School here in Halifax on unemployed youth in urban centres like Banjul.

The Gambia, although poor materially with an average yearly income of \$200 (Canadian), is nevertheless rich in history, culture and its unity of purpose to succeed. It is hoped that the University Extension Program will aid in this goal. Certainly, if the 45 students I taught are indicative of the next generation of Gambians in terms of motivation and assiduous hard work, then Gambia's future is assured. ♦

## International Development Studies' Dynamic Duo

"In the year 2000 and beyond, jobs for all is not just a dream, it is a reality. That is what development is all about." This promising prophecy of global equality comes from Dr. Krishna Ahooja-Patel, an International Development Studies (IDS) professor.

Equality of life on a global scale through Third World development is the goal Dr. Ahooja-Patel and her husband, Dr. Surendra Patel, also of the IDS department, are striving to achieve. The two have spent a combined total of almost 60 years in the United Nations system, traveling and working on every continent within the UN before joining Saint Mary's in 1990 and 1992 respectively.

The Patels have authored numerous books and articles on development issues. They continue to be very active outside of their work in the IDS department. For instance, both currently serve as Directors of the newly established Institute on Equity and Development at the Gujarat Vidyapith (India University of Learning), founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1922, in the city of Ahmedabad.

The experience the couple has gained

during numerous assignments around the world allows them to make the IDS program both interesting and politically relevant. "The purpose of IDS at Saint Mary's is to open international windows to students," explains Dr. Ahooja-Patel. The metaphorical window is opened when one is able to go beyond the media's one-sided presentation of Third World countries.

Although the task of global equality is not an easy one, the Patels believe it is one within reach. "When we are all on an equal level, we will not have discrimination of anything except being human beings," says Dr. Patel. "It can be done very rapidly within 50 to 100 years."

The IDS program will help the Patels in their quest. "When students attend these classes, hopefully they will have a broader view of the world," says Dr. Ahooja-Patel. "Then we can start to get rid of that awful mode of prejudice and bias so when we meet other human beings, we meet them on an equal basis. If one can do that, I know it sounds ambitious, but if you can achieve half of it, I think I'd be quite happy." ♦

## Gambian Student Receives Scholarship



Members of the Saint Mary's University Faculty Women's Association are (from the left): Margaret Boyd, President; Elaine McCulloch; June Boswell; and Elizabeth Ozmon.

The Saint Mary's University Faculty Women's Association Scholarship for The Gambia was established in 1996 by the Saint Mary's Faculty Women's Association. This year's recipient is Mamanding Drammeh, mother of seven children, and a student in The Gambia. She is the highest ranked woman in the Saint Mary's University Extension Program (SMUEP). She is also a secondary school teacher who has been granted a four-year study leave in

order to obtain a degree from Saint Mary's.

The scholarship, established to assist women to participate in the project, was established with the assistance of the Nova Scotia Gambia Association and the SMUEP Scholarship Committee who identified suitable recipients for the award. The Faculty Women's Association also acknowledges the support of Heidi Taylor, Program Manager at the Office of International Activities at Saint Mary's. ♦



# Impressions of Teaching in The Gambia

by Dr. John O'C. Young

*Dr. John O'C. Young, professor emeritus of Chemistry at Saint Mary's, has taught during two semesters in The Gambia. His claim to fame is the innovative first-year chemistry lab he developed in The Gambia using old Macintosh computers. The result was a lab which required fewer resources and allowed for more interaction between professors and students, all without compromising experiments. The first-year chemistry lab has been adopted by Saint Mary's as well as a number of high schools in the region.*

*The following is an account of Dr. Young's second teaching trip to The Gambia in 1998.*

I leave semi-deserted Halifax International Airport at 9 pm on New Year's Eve. After marking the passing of 1997 with a lukewarm plastic glass of champagne somewhere east of Newfoundland, I appropriate three empty seats in the center section, lie down and doze my way into Heathrow. The Speedlink bus takes me through the green English countryside, to Gatwick and my one night hotel stop-over in West Sussex.

The next morning, I am off to Yundum International Airport in The Gambia, courtesy of Monarch, the airline with the narrowest seats in the universe. Entering this brand new airport terminal, the impact of being in Africa is less immediate than it was the last time I was in The Gambia. On my previous visit, we were entertained by native dancers and stilt walkers, as we waited for half an hour under the hot afternoon sun to enter and rapidly pass through a decrepit customs and immigration building. This time, like the last time, I am met by Burris Devanney who runs the University Extension Program and by his wife Louanne, who both work extremely hard to ensure that all aspects of our teaching visits are pleasant and successful.

Africa comes back with a rush as Kantong, our Gambian driver, expertly maneuvers the UEP's ancient Peugeot through taxis, cars, people and animals which clutter the road into town from the airport. I notice the corrugated iron shack shops, the garbage everywhere and the tall, elegantly dressed Gambian women. After a few kilometers, I no longer notice the shacks and the garbage.

This time, I have a house all to myself, with a choice of three bedrooms and two bathrooms. It is pleasant enough, although somewhat austere and spartan, with its black and white mosaic floors and limited amount of furniture. Louanne has stocked up the refrigerator and freezer.

Burris and Louanne take me out for dinner on my first night at a beachside restaurant, where we eat on the verandah only a few meters away from the big, rolling waves of the Atlantic Ocean, under the canopy of a brilliantly starlit sky. Orion and Hunter is front and center.

Now it is Saturday and I am there to teach our first year general chemistry course, beginning on Monday. My biggest problem is re-establishing the computer-mediated lab that I developed for this course during my previous teaching foray into The Gambia last year. After the last course, we had boxed up the computers, A/D interfaces and other paraphernalia, and had them put in an outbuilding at the back of the Devanney's compound. However, in the interim, some of the computers had migrated to various of the UEP houses, so the day was largely spent rounding up my stuff and transporting it to the Gambia Technical Training Institute where my lab is located.

Sunday was a long day, setting up the lab, leavened by an evening visit to my home-away-from-home, the Malawi Guest House run by my host Robert Coolyer, where I ate English style pub food, drank beer and played darts most evenings. I should mention that I also ate Gambian food which was excellent, particularly Domeda, a meat stew cooked in peanut oil and served over rice. I also drank the local water which comes from an artesian source and is almost certainly

less risky to drink than the imported bottled water favoured by the tourists and some of our visiting professors. (Has anyone read Consumer Reports on the quality of bottled waters?)

I made a wise but somewhat controversial decision to insist that Dodou Trawally, one of my students who took the course last time, should be my teaching assistant. On both occasions, I also negotiated to have the time allotted for presenting my course extended from the usual six to a more reasonable, but still too short, eight weeks. The typical teaching cycle is three-hour morning lectures, with, in my case, a three-hour afternoon lab session, each four days a week.

This can be tough going both for the professor and his students. I lost my voice for four days (a big part of the course), during which Dodou did an excellent job of presenting my lecture materials. It was also particularly tough for students in the month of January, which roughly corresponds to Ramadan, during which Muslim students may neither eat nor drink between sunrise and sunset.

By the way, eight weeks wasn't really eight weeks because we lost one week to public holidays, tests and exams. This left a total of eighty-four lecture hours for what is normally a two-semester course. That it is possible to deliver a reasonable facsimile of a normal course under these conditions reflects considerable credit on the TA's and on the students, who are remarkably dedicated and a real pleasure to teach. My TA took my students to intellectual "boot camp." Just about every Saturday afternoon, after most students had attended a morning lecture, they voluntarily gathered for a four to five hour session of problem solving, led for the most part by Dodou. He also ran tutorial sessions during the week, leaving me free to concentrate on lab preparations.

Anyway, back to where I was, which I think was drinking beer at Malawi House on the first Sunday night. Come Monday morning we began classes, and it was a particular (and rare) pleasure to again be teaching the lecture part of the course in the same room as the lab. This situation helped me to emphasize my view that the lab is the most important part of any science course. We were able to get the lab into sufficiently good shape to carry out one experiment during the first week and to have it fully operational by the beginning of the second week. Due to milder weather conditions and the eventual installation of air conditioning, the lab went smoothly and we weren't plagued by the overheating and dust problems which caused many of our computers to "crash" frequently last year.

Our computer-mediated lab attracted a number of distinguished visitors, including Mrs. Satang Jow, the Gambian Minister of State for Education and Dr. Frederico Mayor, the Director-General of UNESCO. Dr. Mayor, a former chemistry professor, considerably overstayed his scheduled visit time with us, stating that he was "most impressed" by what we were trying to achieve in the lab and indicated that he would provide the Gambia Technical Training Institute with funds for its expansion. Preliminary planning for this expansion has already begun. ♦

## Saint Mary's in The Gambia

- The Gambia is located in West Africa, bordered by the North Atlantic Ocean and the country of Senegal. It is the smallest country on the continent of Africa.
- Banjul is the capital city of The Gambia.
- The Gambia has a population of 1.5 million.
- Approximately 95% of the population are Muslim, 4% are Christian, and 1% belong to indigenous religions. English is the official language of the country, while the principal African languages are Wolof and Mandinka.
- Agriculture employs the majority of the labour force. About half the arable land is used for the major export, groundnut crops. Seafood is exported to Europe. Cotton, rice, millet, maize, fruits, vegetables, and sorghum are also grown.
- The Gambia has about a dozen high schools and a few post-secondary institutions, but no university.
- The need is so critical for university-level education in The Gambia that, in 1995 the Gambian Ministry of Education, in consultation with the Nova Scotia Gambia Association (NSGA), commissioned Saint Mary's University to deliver a University Extension Program (UEP) in The Gambia. Qualified Gambians have applied to become Saint Mary's students, taking courses and eventually receiving degrees in their own country.
- The Canadian partner in this venture is the NSGA, a non-government organization which has been developing links between The Gambia and Atlantic Canada for over 10 years. The NSGA has more than 20 education-related projects to its credit.
- A second agreement was signed in 1997, whereby Saint Mary's agreed to provide assistance in establishing the infrastructure for the future University of The Gambia.
- In January of 1996, Saint Mary's and Gambian professors began delivering courses under the UEP in The Gambia.
- The first convocation will take place in The Gambia, in a ceremony on February 16, 1999. The Gambian President, Colonel Yahya A. J.J. Jammeh, as well as several other high-ranking government officials will attend this state occasion.
- Bachelor of Arts degrees in English, International Development Studies, Economics, Geography and History will be presented to 62 Gambian students. Two Gambian students will receive Bachelor of Science degrees in Mathematics.
- Among the 1999 graduates will be 31 Gambian teachers who will return to their classrooms and enrich the education system as a whole.
- Two Gambian students who began Commerce programs in The Gambia are now completing their degrees in Halifax at Saint Mary's.
- Four students from The Gambia have applied to come to Saint Mary's in September 1999 to complete Science degrees which they began in The Gambia.
- By the year 2001, 250 Gambians will be fully accredited with Bachelor of Arts degrees from Saint Mary's.
- Science and Commerce courses are offered to students, but because of the lack of laboratory facilities, physical science degrees cannot be completed until the country implements its own University of The Gambia. However, Dr. John O'C. Young, a Saint Mary's Chemistry professor, has developed an innovative computerized chemistry laboratory in The Gambia with donated second-hand computer equipment. Students can now take first-year chemistry courses.
- By February, 1999, 41 Saint Mary's professors will have taught the equivalent of 110 courses in The Gambia.
- Saint Mary's will be represented at the Convocation in The Gambia by a delegation led by Saint Mary's University President, Dr. Kenneth L. Ozmon, who will be empowered by the Chancellor to confer degrees upon the graduates.
- Student Association and a Public Affairs Officer will accompany the President.
- In March 1998, Saint Mary's received an Award for Excellence in Internationalization for The Gambia project from Scotiabank and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.
- The Acting Saint Mary's University librarian, Rashid Tayyeb, traveled to The Gambia in late 1998 to begin a strategic plan for library improvement.
- In April 1998, Saint Mary's shipped 12,000 university textbooks donated by various sources, valued at \$112,500 to The Gambia.
- In November 1998, the Rotary Club of Halifax Northwest donated \$20,000 towards the purchase of university textbooks for The Gambia.
- The Saint Mary's University Bookstore has been supplying the Gambian students with textbooks at cost since the program's inception.
- Since 1982, the University has managed almost \$40 million worth of international projects in places such as Asia, the Caribbean and Europe.



## In the News

### Ross Quackenbush,

Huskies' Basketball, was interviewed by ATV news about the The Grand Slam Festival to coincide with the AUAA and CIAU basketball championships.

### Dr. Leonard Preyra,

political science, was asked by CBC television for his thoughts on Premier MacLellan's phone call to Gerald Regan's home.

### Dr. Bob McCalla,

geography, was interviewed by CBC national television's Newsworld about the need for Halifax to expand its infrastructure and harbourfront in order to accommodate the proposed Superport.

### Dr. Therese Arseneau,

political science, took part in a panel discussion on whether there will be money for health care on CBC.

### Ellen Farrell,

management, has had her research report, Informal Capital Investment in Atlantic Canada: A Representative View of Angels, reported on CBC's Information Morning, Saint John's *Telegraph Journal*, and on the front page of the *Atlantic Business Journal*.

### Dr. Michael Larsen,

Dean of Arts, was interviewed by the *Daily News* about the work Saint Mary's is doing in The Gambia.

### Dr. Michael West,

astronomy and physics, was featured in an article that appeared in the *Herald* about the work he is doing studying head-on galactic collisions.

### Dr. Colin Dodds,

Vice-President Academic and Research, appeared as a guest on Global's Maritimes Today to discuss the pros and cons of a common currency in North America. He spoke about the Finance Minister's decision not to support the proposed bank mergers in the *Herald*.

### Dr. Cathy Driscoll,

management, spoke to the *Herald* about the closure of the Volvo plant and the bigger implications of this decision.

### Dr. Paul Erikson,

anthropology, spoke to the *Herald* about the fact that clues from the human remains found buried under the Little Dutch Church. He says they point to a typhus epidemic.

## ~ Scholarly & Professional Development ~

### Marketing Department

**Dr. Sanjay Sharma** had the following article accepted for publication: "Trespass or Symbiosis: Dissolving the Boundaries between Strategic Marketing and Strategic Management" in the *Journal of Strategic Marketing*.

### Management Department

**Ellen Farrell**, has received a research grant in the amount of \$24,950 from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) to continue her research into the amount of informal venture capital investment in the Atlantic Region. The results of her previous work are available in both English and French at ACOA's website ([www.acoa.ca](http://www.acoa.ca)). She has received more than \$60,000 in research grants and prizes since she came to Saint Mary's less than three years ago. She is presently conducting her doctoral work at the University of Nottingham, U.K.

### Chemistry Department

**Dr. Keith Vaughan** and **Brad Peori**, who graduated from Saint Mary's with an Honours in Chemistry in 1998 (with Dr. Donald Hooper), published Synthesis and Characterization of Novel Bis-Triazines: 3,8-Di[2-aryl-1-azeny]-1,3,6,8-tetraazabicyclo[4.4.1]undecanes and 1,3-Di-2-[(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-diazenyl]imidazolidine. The Reaction of Diazonium Ions with Ethylenediamine/Formaldehyde Mixtures in the *Journal of Organic Chemistry*.

# NEWS Briefs

### According to Maclean's Magazine...

Congratulations to this year's Popular Professors according to the *Maclean's* Guide to University Issue. They are Dr. Cathy Driscoll, Management, Professor Ellen Farrell, Management, Dr. Michael West, Astronomy and Physics, Dr. Malcolm Butler, Astronomy and Physics, and Dr. Michael Larsen, Dean of Arts (English Professor). They have been chosen by the students at Saint Mary's. *Maclean's* sent out letters to campus newspapers and clubs asking students who they thought the most popular professors are on their campus. This year's "Hot Stuff" according to the issue: Huskies' Patrol, men's and women's ice hockey, resurgence of football team, new football coaches and new quarterback – Pascal Trudeau.

### Human Resources

The Personnel Office has just changed its name to Human Resources as part of the new restructuring that's taking place on campus.

### Y2K computer challenge

The Year 2000 poses a major problem for organizations

around the world, including Saint Mary's. A project team, including various task forces on campus, are working on a strategic action plan to handle the Y2K computer challenge. This semester, updates will be provided so that everyone on campus can gain a greater understanding of the problem. Essentially, the Y2K bug is a glitch that threatens to crash computers at midnight on December 31, 1999. This problem came as a result of using two digits instead of four digits to designate the calendar year, resulting that when the year turns 2000, the date will therefore be recorded as "00" which in turn could be treated by systems as a move backward in time rather than forward.

### Students place in the top six in Canada

Our Information Systems team of Brian Garrison and Mark Monette finished in the top six in Canada at the Queen's ICBC competition from January 14 to 16. The coach, Dr. Barry Gorman, Accounting Department, says the team was the best yet in the four years he's been associated with Saint Mary's students in this competition. ♦

## Students in The Gambia Graduate from Saint Mary's

From page one

tional projects the University has taken on. The University community's support of this project speaks to the core values that unite us – belief in education for the empowerment of individuals and the development of our community and society in general."

Dr. Larsen also stresses that our Gambian students will take a critical leadership role in such vital areas as education, health services, business and government. And they will have the challenge of using all they have learned for the benefit of their families and their society, as well as for personal and professional development.

He adds that Saint Mary's will benefit from such a project. The University has added 250 students to the family, and professors have had the opportunity to bring their experience, commitment and enthusiasm for teaching to very highly motivated students. "Professors, teaching assistants, administrators, and staff in the program have had valuable international experience, and in general we've learned how to manage a complex project at long range, with limited resources," he says.

Heidi Taylor, Program Manager for the International Activities Office, says that it has been a real challenge to provide students with a Saint Mary's

University experience by long distance.

"There are obvious benefits of this project in terms of human resource development for a small but significant number of Gambians," she says. "Also there is a significant impact on Gambians who have realized that the subjects of higher education can be relevant to their own lives in a developing country."

Denis Leclaire, Director of International Activities, says that having such a convocation outside of Halifax or the home campus is a major step forward for the University as it demonstrates the international perspective of the institution and how it is now one of the leading international universities in the country.

"The Gambia was sending its citizens to other parts of the world at a very high cost," he says. "This project now allows Gambians to stay at home and to develop their own institution that will serve them well in the knowledge-based 21st century."

It's obvious The Gambian government is committed to educating its citizens within the country, realizing that an educated workforce is the key to boosting the economic and social realities of the country. And with Saint Mary's commitment to internationalization, Gambians now have access to the world's greatest equalizer – an education. ♦

## Mini-University With a Twist

By Crystal Oickle

Over the years, Saint Mary's has invited hundreds of students to participate in annual mini-universities. During the summer months, youth age 10 to 15 spend time on campus where they can learn about university life and begin to consider future academic options. This past summer, however, Saint Mary's put a spin on the program when it conducted a mini-university exchange with The Gambia.

During July, two Gambian students, Isatou Ndure and Demba Ceesay, came to Saint Mary's to teach in a two-week mini-university program. In August, they returned to The Gambia with two Saint Mary's students, Tyler Waugh and Allison Hynes, where they all taught Gambian high school students at the first-ever mini-university in the country. Student teachers were selected on the basis of faculty recommendation as well as their interests, qualifications and personalities.

Tyler Waugh, a commerce student, taught business during Saint Mary's mini-university 1997, and acted as coordinator for the 1998 in-Canada program. His interest, enthusiasm and hard work in the project earned him an unexpected trip to The Gambia in August. Tyler taught two, two-week training sessions

to grade 11 and 12 students on essential university skills such as researching, presenting and developing papers. He was thrilled with the opportunity and says he would definitely go back. "I learned a lot in The Gambia and really enjoyed the people," he says. "The students were motivated, optimistic and very pleasant to teach."

This exchange of students is part of a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) project, "Capacity Building for Higher Education in The Gambia." This year was the first of the five-year program; over the next four years, the Nova Scotia Gambia Association (NSGA) and Saint Mary's will continue to collaborate to offer mini-universities in The Gambia.

Kathy Mullane, Manager Facilities & Programming of Athletics and Recreation, and Dr. Terry Day, Atlantic Canada Centre for Environmental Science, taught courses in The Gambia this summer under the SMUEP. Mullane says the students were the best part of her adventure in The Gambia. "The students I taught worked so hard," says Mullane. "They really were the highlight of my trip." Students' feelings towards Saint Mary's professors must be the same. This year, two Gambian students in the program have come to Saint Mary's as full-time students. In the meantime, a lot of letters are being sent across the Atlantic Ocean. ♦



## Huskies' Football Score Key Player For Next Season's Line-up

Pascal Trudeau was looking for a team that needed a starting quarterback and the Huskies' football team needed just that. A little bit of fate and a coach who knew what he was doing brought the former Kentucky Wildcats player to Saint Mary's.

This fall, look for a six-foot-three, 200 pound new player on the field with the Huskies'. Trudeau enrolled in the commerce program this semester after some aggressive recruiting by Coach Blake Nill. He attended Mount Allison for a semester in 1998 but did not play football.

Trudeau, a former CEGEP player at Vieux Montreal, is from Beloeil, Quebec. He is a two-time CEGEP most valuable offensive player. Coach Nill says there is no denying the fact that the Huskies' need to improve their offence and move the ball more. Trudeau is more than capable of throwing the ball well on the run. In fact, he is known to be able to throw the ball as far as 62 yards, a distance rarely seen outside professional football leagues.

"I decided to come to Saint Mary's because of the great commerce program and the young players on the football team," says Trudeau. "They are a young



team with lots of potential. I think we are going to have a great season coming up and go at least 6-2. We've got a good offence and a good defence."

Nill is also confident that Trudeau will make recruiting that much easier. "Good players want to play where good players already are." ♦

## Plaque to Honor Saint Mary's University's All-Canadian Athletes

Saint Mary's has a sports history any school would want to boast about and now they have found one more way to do just that. Hanging on the wall upstairs in The Tower adjacent to the University's Sports Hall of Fame is a new plaque that honors all the Saint Mary's CIAU All-Canadian Athletes.

"It's a way of honoring SMU athletes that have been given this prestigious status over the years and it will go back as far as sports go at Saint Mary's," says Lori Forbes of Athletics and Recreation who has been researching the names of all the University's All-Canadian athletes. But she is having some trouble finding those who would have been named All-Canadians during the 1965 to 1971 time period. All-Canadian awards were first awarded in 1964 and football players were the first athletes to receive the honour. Lori already has around 125 athletes on her list.

What make this plaque even more unique is that it was made by Coach Roy Clements in his basement out of wood.

Anyone who may be able to help with the names of the All-Canadian athletes from the '65 to '71 time period is asked to contact Lori at 420-5554 or by e-mail at lori.forbes@stmarys.ca. ♦

## Sailing South Africa



Saint Mary's has another fine athlete to add to its ever-growing list.

In late December, 18-year-old first-year commerce student Taylor Levangie traveled to Simon's Town, South Africa, where he competed against 275 sailors in the Volvo World Youth Sailing Championships.

Levangie pulled out of the week-long event with three 15th place finishes, a 16th, a 17th, a 19th, 20th, 22nd, 23rd place finishes.

When all was said and done, Canada ranked 31st overall among the 42 countries participating, and Levangie tied for 19th out of 33 Laser racers. ♦



# Sports

## Guatemala Gets Physical

Look out Guatemala – she may be small but she's mighty.

This is a small but friendly warning to the fitness gurus who recruited Ruth Vesterback, Athletics and Recreation program coordinator, to train up to 50 fitness instructors for the opening of a large fitness facility in Guatemala. Vesterback, who is the Reebok trainer for the east coast of Canada, was approached by the group after giving a presentation at an athletics business conference in Orlando.

During her five-day stay in the country in February, Vesterback and another Reebok trainer from Central Canada will

train instructors on various Reebok programs such as Step Reebok and Reebok Studio Cycling.

"Seventy-five trainers from around the world are qualified to provide this training," says Vesterback. "To be chosen from that instructor caliber is quite wonderful." Her next international stop is in Germany in September 1999.

Vesterback is currently working on a fitness video that will enable devoted exercisers to take The Tower work-out home with them. Until then, catch her live in action at The Tower. ♦

## The Saint Mary's Huskies' Hockey team

On January 29, for the first time in many years, the Saint Mary's Huskies' Hockey team were ranked first in the Kelly and they had the most points overall in AUA standing. They moved into first place after a 6-1 pounding over the Acadia Axemen in late January. This was the sixth straight win for the team. Pictured at right is player Mike McKay preparing for a practice. ♦



## LEADERSHIP. VISION. COMMITMENT.

These are the qualities that mark progressive thinkers; the calibre of individuals we invite to serve as members of our Board of Governors. Individuals like Dr. Kenneth Hill.



The President, Dr. Kenneth Ozmon, OC (right) and Chair of the Board, Robert G. Belliveau, Q.C. (centre) are pleased to announce that Dr. Kenneth Hill, Psychology Department, Saint Mary's University, is a member of Saint Mary's Board of Governors.

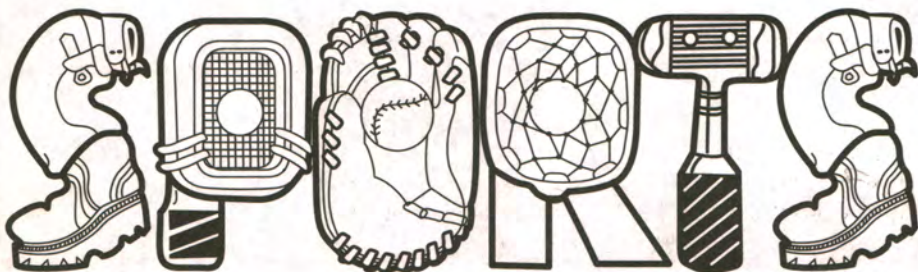
FOR NEARLY 200 YEARS, SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING, RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE. OUR SUCCESS AS A PROGRESSIVE, EXCEPTIONAL UNIVERSITY IS A TRIBUTE TO THE STRONG TEAM OF COMMITTED INDIVIDUALS WHO SHARE OUR VISION.

For information on our programs visit our web site: [www.stmarys.ca](http://www.stmarys.ca)



**Saint Mary's University**  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

WHERE TRADITION MEETS THE FUTURE





# Saint Mary's in The Gambia, West Africa



A view on the beach in The Gambia, West Africa.



Half an hour from Banjul is the Crocodile Pond in the Abuuko Nature Reserve.



At the Nova Scotia Gambia Association compound, Samuel, otherwise known as the "man of the house," poses for a photo.



Dr. Terence Day, Environmental Studies Department, Saint Mary's, enjoys some good food at a picnic with students in The Gambia.

## LEADERSHIP. VISION. COMMITMENT.

These are the qualities that mark progressive thinkers; the calibre of individuals we invite to serve as members of our Board of Governors. Individuals like Gracey Southwell.



The President, Dr. Kenneth Ozmon, OC (right) and Chair of the Board, Robert G. Belliveau, Q.C. (centre) are pleased to announce that Gracey Southwell, Director of Finances and Corporate Services, MT&T, is a member of Saint Mary's Board of Governors.

FOR NEARLY 200 YEARS, SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING, RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE. OUR SUCCESS AS A PROGRESSIVE, EXCEPTIONAL UNIVERSITY IS A TRIBUTE TO THE STRONG TEAM OF COMMITTED INDIVIDUALS WHO SHARE OUR VISION.

For information on our programs visit our web site: [www.stmarys.ca](http://www.stmarys.ca)



**Saint Mary's University**  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

WHERE TRADITION MEETS THE FUTURE



Mini-U Program. Allison Hynes, Demba Ceesay, Shawna O'Hearn, Tyler Waugh and Batou N'Dow.



Dr. Kofi Anyoke, a University Extension Program professor, talks with Bridglal Pachai, a Saint Mary's History professor in The Gambia.