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For Alumni and Friends of Saint Mary's University

Spring 2017

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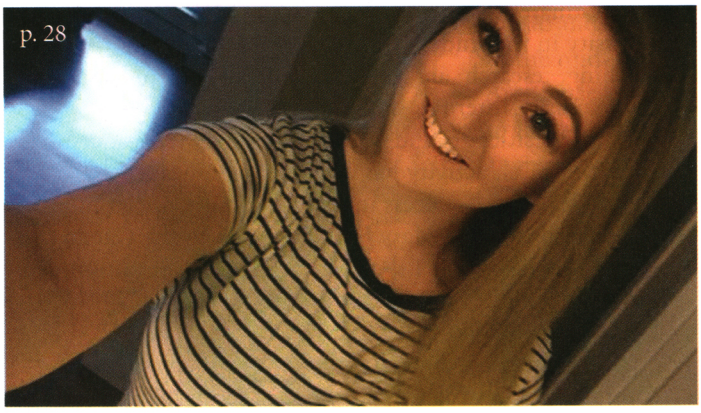

MAROON&WHITE

Spring 2017

CAMPUS NOTES

Letters from the Alumni and SMU Presidents 2
Something's Happening Here..... 3

FEATURED

A Most Promising Quartet..... 6
Home Away from Home..... 10
Exciting Scholarship Opportunity..... 12
Saint Mary's EMBA Program..... 14
Warm Welcome for New VP of Advancement ... 16
Diversity and Inclusion..... 17
Words from the Roundtable..... 18

ALUMNI NEWS

The Joy of Giving..... 20
Events..... 22
Alumni Card 24
Homecoming 2017..... 25
Class Notes..... 26
One Year Later..... 28
Remembering Paul Lynch 29

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

I am excited and proud to serve as the new President of the Saint Mary's Alumni Association. Since the Fall of 2016, I have been privileged to meet many alumni from across the globe and to engage with faculty, staff, and students within the University. This experience has been immensely rewarding.

In February, we officially welcomed our new VP Advancement, Erin Sargeant Greenwood, to the team. She brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and passion to her role, and our Alumni Council looks forward to working with her. You can read more about her in the coming pages.

The Class of 2017 will have recently graduated by the time you receive your magazine. There are so many great students joining our alumni family, which officially crossed the 50,000 mark in January. We've highlighted a few of these amazing students, now alumni, in this issue.

Two important dates to keep in mind are the Alumni Golf Tournament on August 17th, 2017 and Homecoming on Oct 12-15th, 2017. The Golf Tournament is not just a fun day of golf; it also supports our students financially with bursaries. If you are interested in participating or sponsoring the event, please visit our webpage!

Homecoming will be a very special event this year. We will be welcoming back the 2001 and 2002 Vanier Cup championship football teams. The two teams will be inducted into the Saint Mary's Sports Hall of Fame. Make a plan to get back to campus and let us know, so we can help you plan your reunion or gathering.

I would like to thank my Executive: Past President, Mary-Evelyn Ternan; Vice-President, Dan Rudisuela; and Secretary, Scott McElman, plus all of the Alumni Council and the staff in the Alumni Office for all of their hard work.

Sarah Ferguson, CMA BComm '09
President, Saint Mary's University Alumni Association

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

I am delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of Maroon & White.

It is a pleasure to lead an organization as vibrant as Saint Mary's University. Our Strategic Plan (2016-21) strengthens our vision 'to be the university of choice for aspiring citizens of the world' and our mission to offer academic programs and engage in research that serve both local and international communities. Our three key initiatives in the years ahead are: Promoting Discovery and Innovation in a Learning-Centred Environment, Fostering Intercultural Learning and Understanding, and Strengthening Institutional Sustainability.

As Canada's leading international university, we prepare our graduates to succeed in a global environment. The diversity in the student body, the curriculum, and in teaching, research, and staff communities, in addition to our extensive international outreach and collaboration with universities around the world affirms our leadership.

Our research activity has increased significantly in recent years, with success in federal and provincial funding competitions. Saint Mary's has advanced in the Canada Research University of the Year rankings by Research InfoSource and has been consistently in the top 50 since 2010, holding 35th place in 2016.

Saint Mary's has a tradition of engagement with our community, drawing on our active alumni, many of whom are national and international leaders in business, politics, the arts, culture, science, and industry. We are motivated by the values of our university, and the potential for giving back, summed up in our Latin motto Age Quod Agis. This calls us to 'do what we do' - this is our distinctive identity.

Our five-year plan requires us to articulate the distinctive Santamarian experience so that our identity is broadly understood and we can advance our standing as a leading university within Canada and the wider world.

I invite you to join us in achieving success in the key initiatives of our Strategic Plan. Please stay connected and send us your own stories of what makes Saint Mary's so special as your 'university of choice'.

Robert Summerby-Murray
President and Vice-Chancellor, Saint Mary's University

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.

Student Services Senior Director Tom Brophy; Indigenous Students Society Treasurer, Jody Paul, and Co-President, Elora Gehue; Society member Salina Kemp and Elder Billy Lewis.

CELEBRATING INDIGENOUS CULTURE

Fry bread tacos were a big hit at the inaugural Mawio'mi Indigenous Gathering, a new addition to Saint Mary's University's Winter Welcome. The first in a series of events to celebrate Indigenous culture, it was organized by the Saint Mary's Indigenous Students Society Co-Presidents Elora Gehue and Boyce Campbell, and Student Services Senior Director Tom Brophy. Festivities included greetings from notable Indigenous speakers, a smudging ceremony and tobacco offering, drumming, fancy shawl dancing, jingle dress dancing, basket weaving, and traditional Mawio'mi foods. The event concluded with an elder prayer and the Mi'kmaw Honour Song.

Front: Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray, President, Saint Mary's University; Nancy Noble, Director and CEO, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia Back: Erin Sargeant Greenwood, Vice-President of Advancement, Saint Mary's University; Judy Dietz; Diane Chisholm, Chief Advancement Officer, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

THE RETURN OF A TREASURE

Remnants of an old gateway were all that remained of the Belgian Abbey of Salzinnes until 1998, when alumna Judy Dietz (BA'84, MA'06) discovered a 450-year old illuminated manuscript in Saint Mary's University's Rare Books collection. A hand-scribed choir book containing 240 parchment folios with music and text, the Salzinnes Antiphonal was likely brought to Nova Scotia in the mid-1800's by Bishop William Walsh, the first Archbishop for the Archdiocese of Halifax. Bishop James M. Hayes gave it to Saint Mary's in 1975 to mark the opening of the Patrick Power Library. After several years of scientific analysis and conservation at the Canadian Conservation institute in Ottawa, the antiphonal has returned to Saint Mary's and will be featured at *Centuries of Silence: The Discovery of the Salzinnes Antiphonal*, an exhibition that opens in May at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

Dr. Kevin Vessey, Associate Vice President of Research at Saint Mary's University; Kelly Regan, Nova Scotia Minister of Labour and Advanced Education; Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray, President, Saint Mary's University; Leigh Huestis, Director of the Office of Industry & Community Engagement, Acadia University; Kazi Rahman, President, Saint Mary's University Students' Association

HELPING COMMUNITIES MOVE FORWARD

Thanks to a $1.1 million investment from the Federal Government, Saint Mary's is now the headquarters for the Change Lab Action Research Initiative (CLARI), a post-secondary education partnership offering a network of academic experts, research resources, collaboration spaces, and communications technology.
"The Change Lab Action Research Initiative is a great example of the kind of collaboration and partnership that will help move Nova Scotia forward," says Kelly Regan, Minister of Labour and Advanced Education. "It's a space where students, researchers, and experts will come together to help communities overcome challenges and take advantage of opportunities."

A REPUTATION FOR RESEARCH

The exceptional research carried out by Saint Mary's faculty and students is receiving lots of social media praise by those who attended the Research Expo in March. In related news, Saint Mary's University has shot up in the rankings of the well-regarded Research Universities of the Year (RUY) report by Toronto-based consultants Research Infosource. Their 2016 report, released in October, shows Saint Mary's has jumped nine positions to 35th place from last year's 44th ranking.

Author Yann Mantel addresses the capacity crowd at the Halifax Central Library in March.

TWO NIGHTS AND TWO SITES FOR CYRIL BYRNE MEMORIAL LECTURE

The annual Cyril J. Byrne Memorial Lecture took on a new dimension this year, with hundreds of Haligonians taking part in a special two-night celebration featuring Booker Prize-winning novelist Yann Martel. The author of *Life of Pi*, *Beatrice & Virgil*, and the new novel *The High Mountains of Portugal*, Martel filled the Halifax Central Library's Paul O'Regan Hall to capacity on March 23, for a rumination on the theme of loss in his work. The following evening, during a celebration in the McNally Theatre Auditorium, he led a lively discussion on the power of the imagination.

"The arts give you the tools to deal with life," says Martel. "It's through imagination and metaphor that we understand the world." The joint event celebrated the unique partnership between Saint Mary's and the Halifax Public Library. It also served to remember the spirit of the lecture series' namesake, Dr. Byrne, who spent much of his career forging connections between the university and the wider community. Recent lecturers have included *Room* author Emma Donoghue, Canada's Parliamentary Poet Laureate George Elliot Clarke, and Pulitzer Prize-winner Richard Ford.

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY SERVICE

Marsha Sobey (BEd'82) received an Alumni Association Distinguished Community Service Award

Saint Mary's friend and alumna, Marsha Sobey (BEd'82), was quick to share the credit when receiving an Alumni Association Distinguished Community Service Award for the profound impact she has had on Saint Mary's University, Landmark East School, the Children's Wish Foundation, and the IWK Health Centre. "It's a real honour to receive this award," she said, speaking at last fall's Alumni Awards gala, "and it is only made possible with the work of many volunteers." Rick Butler (BA'69) also received a Distinguished Community Service Award in acknowledgement of his dedicated service to Saint Mary's University, many contributions to the greater community, and tireless support of Huskies athletics.

A STARRING ROLE FOR SAINT MARY'S COMPUTATIONAL ASTROPHYSICS PROF

Looking for a scientifically approved dose of fun? Look no further than Dr. Rob Thacker's weekly science column as part of CBC Radio 1 Mainstreet in Halifax. Dr. Thacker is a Professor and Tier II Canada Research Chair in the department of Astronomy and Physics at Saint Mary's, and the Acting Director of the Institute for Computational Astrophysics (ICA). His focus for the new radio gig is computing, math, physics, astronomy, and technology, but don't let that scare you! Those who know him expect a stellar performance!

Dr. Christa Brosseau, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry; Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray, Saint Mary's University President; Andy Fillmore, Member of Parliament for Halifax; Dr. Todd Ventura, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry

CHEMISTRY PROFS NAMED CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS

Halifax MP Andy Fillmore visited Saint Mary's in December 2016 to announce two new Canada Research Chairs. Dr. Christa Brosseau, *Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry*, is the new Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Chemistry and Materials; and Dr. Todd Ventura, *Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry*, is the Canada Research Chair in Petroleum Systems, Geochemistry and Reservoir Characterization. "This is one of the highest honours Canadian researchers can achieve," says President Summerby-Murray. "These researchers are at the forefront of their respective fields, and their work embodies the type of innovation that will help strengthen our economy and our society."

Retail futurist Doug Stephens congratulates Ana Paula Mercado Farell on receiving the Innovation Award he sponsors

A WINNING BUSINESS SCHOOL

Sobey School of Business student Ana Paula Mercado Farell was thrilled to be part of the winning team for the first Retail Concept Competition, organized in March by the David Sobey Centre for Innovation in Retailing and Services. She was doubly pleased to receive an innovation award, courtesy of retail futurist Doug Stephens, a member of the advisory board for the David Sobey Centre.

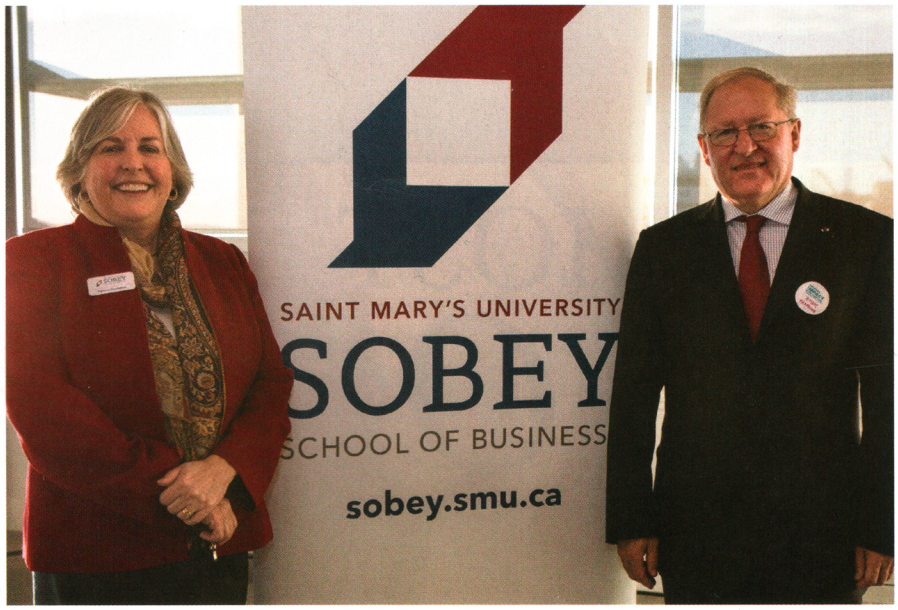
Sobey School of Business' IMPACT Fund Managers Alex Fowler, Mengqing Chen, Jorge Gonzalez, and Mitchell Norrie also came out on top as winners of the Atlantic Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Competition in March. This win takes the team to the Americas Regional Competition in Seattle, Washington.

In Sobey School MBA news, a team defeated contenders from 10 other top MBA programs to take first place in February's East Meets West Leadership Case Competition at the Ivey Business School. Meanwhile, another team of MBA students prevailed against challengers from the world's most prestigious business schools to emerge as one of the top three finalists in the first round of the Ben Graham Centre's International Stock Picking Competition.

Keynote speaker Warren Macdonald at the third annual Starting Point Student Entrepreneurship Conference

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL *STARTING POINT*

Almost 150 student entrepreneurs from post-secondary institutions and high schools across the country came together at Saint Mary's in February 2017 to share best practices and learn from national business leaders at the third annual Starting Point Student Entrepreneurship Conference. With a focus on fostering innovation and encouraging students to think big, Starting Point 2017 featured master classes, an ideation tournament, Funder Speed Dating, and $10,000 in prize money. This year's inspiring keynote speaker was Warren Macdonald, the first double, above-knee amputee to reach the summit of Africa's tallest peak, Mt Kilimanjaro.



Dr. Patricia Bradshaw, Dean of the Sobey School of Business; Pierre-Louis DuBois, professor emeritus with Université de Montpellier, and a former director with FNEGE, one of the cofounding groups of the BSIS

IMPACT WITH PURPOSE

Business and government leaders, entrepreneurs, students, faculty, and staff gathered in Halifax last fall to celebrate the release of a report reflecting the Sobey School of Business' economic, social, and intellectual impact on the province of Nova Scotia.

Applying the Business School Impact System (BSIS), developed by the Brussels-based European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD), we can proudly say that the Sobey School of Business contributes $329 million annually to the economy of Nova Scotia.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SOBEY PROGRAM

Halifax MP Andy Fillmore was back on campus on March 2nd to announce more than $480,000 in funding from the Government of Canada for OPtions (Overcoming Poverty) Youth, a program offered by the Sobey School Business Development Centre and Saint Mary's University's Enactus team. The program helps at-risk youth develop employability skills through mentorship, entrepreneurship training, and on-the-job work experience. ✧

A MOST PROMISING *Quartet*

BY RENÉE HARTLEIB

If there's one thing that these Saint Mary's newest alumni have in common, other than exceptional academics and extremely well-rounded resumes, it's that each one is uniquely inspiring. All four are not only poised to make a huge impact, but are actively welcoming the opportunity to make the world a better place. Keep your eye on these four names in the years to come!

SPEARHEADING THE MILLENNIAL PROMISE

After contracting a mono-like virus when she was 16, *Amanda Brown* missed 180 days of school and suffered for years with chronic neurological pain and mobility issues. Although her illness meant it took longer for her to complete her Honours Bachelor of Science degree (five years instead of four), Brown says that the experience taught her a lot about persistence and resilience. It also taught her about gratitude and giving back.

"Coming from a working class family and being chronically ill throughout high school, the ability to go to university was something that was dreamed about, but not guaranteed." Growing up in Enfield, Nova Scotia, Brown was the type of kid who loved reading about science and philosophy, who chose to dress eccentrically to bring more whimsy and magic to the world, and who always knew she wanted to make an impact.

What she didn't know was that during her university studies, she would also overcome her physical challenges to become a Zumba instructor, make friends from around the world, graduate with a 4.12 grade point average, and be chosen as class valedictorian.

Her future field of study—human genetics—doesn't come as a surprise though. She has long been fascinated by this field and looks forward to applying it in an area that has deep personal interest. Brown has been accepted into the Masters of Science program to study the genetics

behind depression and suicidal behaviour. "There is a lot of mental illness and depression in my family and being unaffected myself, I've always wondered about the genetic component."

She hopes to help people with her research and is particularly passionate about making scientific concepts accessible to the general public. "I think, as scientists, that we have a responsibility to make the public more scientifically aware and literate. The academic community doesn't always do a great job at translating. I'd like to change that."

Brown sees education as the highest form of privilege and believes that those who receive an education have a duty to try and make the world a better place.

In her valedictorian address that received a rare standing ovation, Brown talked of the tremendous promise of her generation, especially about the importance of their socially progressive values in today's world. "Our generation has the ability to shake up the world for the better and wield education as a sword to take up against ignorance, bigotry, and regression."

ADVOCATING FOR PROGRESSIVE CHANGE

As a kid, growing up in Antigua and Barbuda, *André Edwards* dreamed of becoming an accountant. At the tender age of 22, his dream is coming true. And it was offered to him a full six months before convocation! This fall, the Bachelor of Commerce grad starts his career as an accountant with Grant Thornton, a firm in Halifax.

Edwards now joins the huge contingent of Antiguan alumni, many of whom inspired and supported him to make the leap to a university education. "Growing up, I heard about Saint Mary's from so many of my mentors." As the first to attend university in his family, Edwards says it was a surreal moment when he received his acceptance letter. "I wanted to make my parents and my community proud."

To that end, he not only excelled academically during his four years of school, but was involved in nearly every facet of campus life: President of the Commerce Society, varsity athlete, Resident Assistant, SMUSA Manager. "I wanted to be very involved and active and have the whole university experience. It's been pretty busy," he laughs. "But I've met so many amazing people."

He credits his parents for teaching him the importance of hard work. They worked long hours and often held down two jobs while he was growing up. Showing his own drive and initiative from a young age, Edwards created odd jobs for himself, even growing tomatoes one summer to sell to the local sandwich shop. At age 16, he and a group of friends founded a non-profit organization in Antigua called Project Sync (www.projectsync.org). For the last six years, they have raised funds and lobbied the government

on important environmental and social issues.

"We have a great deal of natural beauty in Antigua and Barbuda that needs to be protected and preserved," he says. "I love being part of something that advocates for progressive change." Throughout his time in Halifax, Edwards has continued his involvement and hopes to one day return home and work full-time with the growing organization.

While Edwards has worked hard to accomplish all that he has, he is very aware that he's one of the lucky ones. "There are so many people I grew up with who didn't have the same opportunities," he says. "I attended university for all of them."

SPREADING VALUES OF TOLERANCE

Before he even graduated from high school, *Ben Gaunce* paid a visit to Saint Mary's - the university he had his sights set on. The enterprising student had served on his high school's student council in Saint John, New Brunswick and was interested in becoming part of the SMUSA Executive. Gaunce boldly reached out to the Vice President of University Affairs at the time and was invited to come for a tour. That visit changed the course of his life.

"I knew I wanted to be sitting in that Vice President chair and I knew I wanted to come to university and make a difference." Gaunce has succeeded on both counts. After working as a Residence Assistant, and then serving on SMUSA's Board of Directors in his third year, he was hired to the VP position he had aspired to since high school.

A storyteller by nature, Gaunce used his theatre background and natural charisma in presentations to large crowds of students, Members of Parliament, CEOs of companies,

and university administration. He absolutely loved advocating on behalf of students, but discovered that his biggest passion lies with individuals and their inner journey to become their best selves.

It resulted in him applying to graduate programs in Speech Pathology at Dalhousie and McGill. "As someone who is able to make friends easily enough and talk in front of people, I know the reward of this kind of communication and connection," he says. "I want to work with people who have difficulty communicating with others and help them feel more confident in their own abilities."

Following in his father's footsteps—Andrew Gaunce, BComm'87—the 21-year-old recently graduated with an Honours in Psychology, a Major in Spanish, and a Minor in Religious Studies. His involvement in campus activities was as varied as his course of study, with a long commitment to Peaceful Schools International. He and 15 other students travelled to Ireland earlier this year where they spoke about alternative ways to deal with conflict in Belfast classrooms. It's these kind of diverse experiences with many different cultures around the world that Gaunce will miss.

"I've been so proud to be part of a school that fosters and appreciates diversity and actively tries to share it," he says. "If the world could replicate what we're doing here, it would be a better place. I plan on taking all the values that this school has instilled in me and spreading them as best I can, wherever I go."

AUTHENTICALLY PURSUING HER PASSIONS

After hearing about Saint Mary's while attending high school in her home country of the Bahamas, *Barrinique Griffin* made it her mission to attend. Although she had received full funding to go to a college at home, the then-17-year-old felt a strong intuitive nudge to come to Canada.

A partial scholarship and the encouragement of her mom helped make Saint Mary's a reality and although she's never really gotten used to the winters, the small campus, warm people, and the proximity to the ocean, have made Halifax feel like home.

After a bit of a lonely and awkward first year, Griffin changed her mindset and kicked it into high gear.

She stepped outside her comfort zone and began working as a Residence Assistant, started volunteering at Adsum House, joined the Executive of the Caribbean Society, and then shortly thereafter, founded a leadership conference—called the Saint Mary's Leadership Summit—that has grown in both numbers and popularity, year after year.

"Watching this conference grow and watching myself grow with it, has been one of my most memorable and meaningful experiences at university. I've realized so much about my own passions and the impact that I hope to make." Griffin adds that it was this experience that caused her to shift her major to Entrepreneurship.

One glance at her numerous leadership awards tells you that this young woman is already well on her way to influencing positive change. In the future, as a business consultant or executive coach, she hopes to help people—women especially—step into their own power, gain financial stability, and become educated. "I truly believe if more people figured out their purpose in this life and authentically pursued their passions, the world would be a better place. I want to help other people do that."

Growing up with a single mom who didn't have much money, Griffin was the recipient of a helping hand more than once. She dreams of repaying those kindnesses. "People have given me all kinds of first and second chances and they've made a lasting impact on me. I'd like to do the same for other people." One of her long-term dreams is to establish a shelter for women and children leaving abusive relationships or experiencing financial hardship.

Griffin was delighted and proud to be chosen as her class valedictorian, and to have her mother and grandmother attend the event. "I felt so humble and grateful that my Grammy had the opportunity to see me graduate and that I got to show her and my family why I came to this country." ✧

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HOME AWAY FROM HOME

BY LEZLIE LOWE

L to R, alumnus Rudolph Davis BA'84 and Principal of St. Joseph's Academy, Marie Braswell, Director of Admissions and Recruitment at Saint Mary's and Joann pose for a picture at the Alumni reception in Antiqua and Barbuda in Oct 2016.

Susan Summerby-Murray (right) stands with Joann in her office where she proudly displays her three Saint Mary's degrees.

Joann Boulos-Callias's best spot when she attended Saint Mary's was the glass-enclosed catwalk between Loyola Academic and McNally.

"My favourite, favourite place," she says. "When the sun was out, it would get so warm."

Warmth was one part of what Boulos-Callias was looking for in 1978 when she ventured from Antigua and Barbuda to Halifax for her Bachelor of Arts at Saint Mary's. She was 17 and following the path of her older brother, who had arrived at Saint Mary's the year before. She'd never been to Canada. Never been on an elevator. Never felt snow.

During the first dusting that winter, the girls on Boulos-Callias's floor bundled her up "like the Goodyear Blimp" and took her to the football field. "They scraped some snow off of the bleachers and gave it to me so I could touch it."

Soon enough, Boulos-Callias wasn't only right at home at Saint Mary's; she was a school leader — a character, a comrade, and a residence don.

She graduated. Went home. Then returned to Saint Mary's for her Bachelor of Education. She repeated the process for her Masters of Education. Home and back. In between, she helmed schools and trained teachers.

"If they had a Ph.D in Education," she says, only half-joking, "I would probably have come back."

Today, Boulos-Callias has built a school of her own — Saint Anthony's Secondary School in Cedar Grove. And her enduring romance with Saint Mary's has never cooled.

Keith Hotchkiss met Joann Boulos-Callias at Saint Mary's back in 1978. She was in Vanier's A House. He was Director of Residence.

Saint Mary's had 1000 students, then. A mere slice of today's more than 7100.

"You got to know the international students in particular," says the recently retired Student Services head. Hotchkiss remembers Boulos-Callias as "vibrant and intelligent." The two have stayed in touch over decades.

Hotchkiss is a Saint Mary's lifer. He arrived in 1969 for football and a Bachelor of Arts in History. In 1973, he was on the first Huskies team to win a Vanier Cup national championship. He finished his degree, but never left his second home. He retired last July after 42 years in Student Services. He still works out at the Homburg Centre and gets his hair cut at Luigi's in Henn Alley.

Hotchkiss started recruiting in the Caribbean and Bahamas in the mid-1990s, when Boulos-Callias was in the teacher education department at Antigua State College. In 2000, she became the principal of Saint Joseph's Academy, an all-boys school — the first woman in the job and first head not from a religious order.

Saint Mary's was one of the early schools from the Atlantic region to attend university fairs on the island of Antigua. Boulos-Callias always brought her students. Soon, she started hosting the annual Antigua and Barbuda alumni meet-up at her home.

Hotchkiss found he never had to go too far to boost the reputation of Saint Mary's in the Caribbean and Bahamas. He discovered dedicated 1970s and 1980s alumni like Boulos-Callias — many of them teachers — all over the place.

"That was a real advantage that we had. They could speak to Saint Mary's and their experience."

It was around this time, Hotchkiss recalls, that Boulos-Callias and her husband started talking about building a school of their own.

"I always wanted my own school," she says, "with my own vision."

Saint Anthony's Secondary School (SASS) opened in 2008.

SASS is a private high school — co-ed and non-denominational. The Saint Anthony name isn't strictly religious, but

part homage to the many early supporters curiously named "Anthony."

"They were saints!" laughs Boulos-Callias.

But, Boulos-Callias adds, Catholics pray to Saint Anthony for help in finding things, much like the young people who attend SASS are encouraged to find themselves and their passions through education.

A walk around the SASS campus reveals some of its 300-odd students immersed in studies, doing yoga, playing chess, singing, or passing around a soccer ball.

It is one of the only Antigua and Barbuda schools to offer A-levels, advanced academic study for higher-level students. Several SASS students have gone to Saint Mary's.

For Antiguans and Barbudans to leave their tiny country — 90,000 inhabitants on two islands, which combined are about the area of Kejimkujik National Park — isn't unusual. There's no university campus there. Students attend the University of the West Indies campuses on Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, or Jamaica, or "go abroad" to the U.S., the U.K., or Canada.

The move isn't cheap, but it's worth it for families.

"Some parents would put second mortgages on their homes to make sure their kids got an education," Hotchkiss says. "And the kids knew that, coming here. They knew what their parents had done. And they did well."

The move also isn't easy. Halifax is more than 3,000 kilometres from Antigua and Barbuda.

A parent stopped Boulos-Callias in the grocery store the other day; his daughter had been accepted to Saint Mary's and he was making sure that it's a good place.

"I reassure parents all the time that it's as safe as can be. And I make sure they know that their child is going to have someone looking out for them."

To wit: she relays the story of missing her first ever class. Sociology. She was rushing to get a paper done for another class. "Do you know? He tracked me down! The prof! He was worried I was sick. He called the residence!"

There are 254 Caribbean and Bahamian students at Saint Mary's this year; 52 from Antigua and Barbuda. It's a small but mighty crew, and these students make a distinct impact on academic and student life at Saint Mary's.

Boulos-Callias's daughter Ariel is a student now. She will graduate in May 2018 with a Bachelor of Science and a Diploma in Forensic Science. She's been a Residence Assistant for two years, just like her mom.

"Coming from a small island," says Boulos-Callias, "(Saint Mary's) is so international. So they don't feel like they are a small, isolated pocket of non-Canadians."

She even thinks winters are easier on Caribbean and Bahamian students with Saint Mary's "gentle introduction" to the cold by way of its connected buildings.

"Even, in the midst of winter," Boulos-Callias says wistfully of her warm catwalk, "I could stand there and pause for a while and it felt like it was home."✧

EXCITING SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS FROM ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

BY JOANIE VEITCH

L to R, Her Excellency Lady Sandra Williams BA'86, Marie Braswell, Director of Admissions and Recruitment at Saint Mary's and His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda.

The importance of getting a good education was modeled early in Lady Williams's (BA'86) life. The Saint Mary's graduate was born in Antigua and Barbuda, but moved to Ontario with her family at age three so her parents could continue their studies—Carleton University for her father and Ryerson Polytechnic, now Ryerson University, for her mother—before moving back to Antigua.

"My parents put a great deal of emphasis on education and that has always stayed with me." Lady Williams is the wife of Antigua and Barbuda's Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and also the president of the Halo Foundation, a charity they founded together in 2014.

The charity, which aims to provide opportunities for the betterment of people living in Antigua and Barbuda, with a particular focus on youth, has recently established a new scholarship for young people from the islands to attend Saint Mary's University.

"Good grades are important, of course, but with this initiative we want to reward young people who have already contributed to the well-being of their communities through exceptional acts of kindness and humanitarian efforts," says Lady Williams.

The first recipient of the Henley & Partners Hero Scholarship definitely fits the bill. Ariana Joseph has been a volunteer with the elderly and also with children on a pediatric medical ward in Antigua. Her entire education is paid for by the scholarship as she pursues an undergraduate degree, with a double major in biology and chemistry, with plans to specialize in pediatric cardiothoracic surgery.

Lady Williams (formerly known as Sandra Scotland) is thrilled that students from the islands will be able to come to Nova Scotia, as she did when she came to Saint Mary's in the 1980s to earn a Bachelor of Arts in modern languages and classics. "I was only 16 when I left school

and to be able to go to a university where there were other Caribbean students...it was like a home away from home."

It was her fond memories of Saint Mary's and her desire to create opportunities for the development and empowerment of young people in Antigua and Barbuda that led to the founding of the scholarship. She was able to secure Henley & Company, a global citizenship advisory firm, as the scholarship sponsor. Three other students will be helped by this financial aid in 2017.

"This award is a tribute to the long-standing and excellent relationship between Saint Mary's University and the people of Antigua and Barbuda," said Saint Mary's President, Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray. "We are pleased one of our alumni felt so strongly about encouraging education and community service, she not only worked with us on developing this scholarship, but also identified a like-minded sponsor in Henley & Company, to make this happen."

Lady Williams believes that the opportunity to study abroad and meet fellow students from other countries is invaluable. In her own life, travel and the opportunity to live in different countries was formative. Growing up, she attended secondary school in North Wales, before finishing her high school years in Guyana. During her time at Saint Mary's, Lady Williams completed an exchange year in Europe, before returning to Halifax to finish her studies.

"You are exposed to so many different cultures, it is an enriching experience and an integral part of a young person's growing maturity."

"You are exposed to so many different cultures. It is an enriching experience and an integral part of a young person's growing maturity," she says.

Following graduation, she was awarded a Commonwealth scholarship to pursue a masters degree in tourism at the University of Surrey in the UK. This led to senior tourism marketing positions for several years in Frankfurt and London before returning to Antigua in 2000, where she and her husband raised their youngest of three sons, who is now doing his Masters, also in the UK.

"I'm so pleased to be part of a scholarship that will enable young people from Antigua and Barbuda to go to Saint Mary's, a university long celebrated for the international diversity of its students and faculty." ✧

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SAINT MARY'S EMBA PROGRAM

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF IMPACT WITH PURPOSE

BY RENÉE HARTLEIB

In the late 1980s, Linda Moxsom-Skinner had three small children and a full-time job. She hadn't had a chance to finish high school or complete an undergraduate degree, but had landed a good position in the Advancement department of Dalhousie University. She knew that in order to grow her career she would need to further her education.

Enter the brand new Saint Mary's Executive MBA program. Year one was 1990. "It was a group of 25 and we got very close quickly," she says. "It was a great group of people." This very first graduating class of 1992 was lucky to have a lot of input into the program organization. In fact, they were responsible for suggesting that an international trade mission be added to the curriculum; something that continues to this day.

These two years changed Moxsom-Skinner's life, moving her into a Director of Advancement position at Wilfrid Laurier University immediately after graduation. When she returned to Nova Scotia a few years later, she entered the world of politics. "The EMBA program allowed me to secure positions that were out of reach before," she says. "I was able to be present at the government table and use the skills I'd learned at Saint Mary's to effect change."

Moxsom-Skinner, who is now the Director of Advancement at the Atlantic School of Theology, was especially impressed with the calibre of the faculty. "There were some stellar professors and we really worked together as a team. We felt they were there for us and we could talk to them in a real way about the issues we were facing in our workplaces."

One of her favourite professors was Dr. Colin Dodds, who would go on to become President of Saint Mary's. At the time, Dodds was the Dean of the Faculty of Commerce from 1987-1991 (now the Sobey School of Business). It was his idea to create an Executive MBA program. "I'm a big believer in lifelong education and in the importance of continuing to update your skills and receive further accreditation."

Dodds felt there was a need for accessible education for those who were already working full-time in rewarding careers, but wanted to upgrade their skills, in order to widen their awareness of the business world. "The program attracts a unique group of leaders with management backgrounds and real world experience. People travel from all over the region to attend."

Partly, he says, it's the uniqueness of the program that draws people in. It takes place over two years, every other weekend, at the World Trade and Convention Centre. Students have breakfast together Friday morning and then dive right into the work. "You learn as much from the

Sara Napier, EMBA'11

Linda Moxsom-Skinner, EMBA'92

diversity of the group as you do from the professors," says Dodds, who still teaches in the program.

Dr. Wendy Carroll is another graduate from the 1990s, who has ended up back where her graduate studies began. In 2014, she was hired by Saint Mary's to serve as Academic Director for the Sobey EMBA program and has played a key role in its redesign.

Carroll is proud of the recent changes to the EMBA program, which include course delivery in four distinct modules. "The modules are designed to create foundation knowledge that continues to build as the student progresses." From managing people and organizational decision-making, to strategic choices in a global context, the program is then punctuated by a major research project and the International Trade Mission at the end of the two years.

EMBA students travel to different countries every year, including South Africa, Antigua, Chile, China, Poland, and this year—Vietnam. While there, they represent a Nova Scotian company and hit the ground running, negotiating and brokering deals. "The trade mission challenges students to overcome language and cultural barriers in order to help an Atlantic Canadian business develop relationships in an international emerging market," says Carroll. "It's a hands-on learning experience that broadens a student's experience and their sense of connection."

It was this broadening of experience and education that Sara Napier was looking for when she entered the EMBA program in 2009. "I had completed an undergrad in public relations right out of high school and I loved it, but as I worked in the field, I began to realize that my mind and my interests were broader than my qualifications." In a nutshell, she wanted to grow into a leadership position and help to create positive organizational change.

Her EMBA studies helped her do just that. "The program quickly set my mind on fire and grew my confidence," she says. "Through this intense phase of growth and learning, I began to see a path forward that involved me becoming a professional with broader credentials and a broader brand or identity."

Right after graduation, Napier was moved into a Vice President role with her employer—the IWK Foundation—and was able to apply her education in strategic planning and higher level decision-making. In 2015, she accepted the position of the President and CEO of United Way Halifax, and is making the kind of impact within her community that she's always dreamed of.

Napier is still in touch with many of the other students in her cohort. "We were from very different backgrounds, but we learned so much from each other. There's a kind of camaraderie that happens when you have this kind of intense experience together."

In fact, the EMBA alumni network is often touted as the solution to today's business problems. "For those who choose to stay connected, it's a large and influential network," says Dr. Carroll, who adds that alumni are always invited to contribute in any way they would like, and to participate in ongoing events, such as the Speaker's Series.

"Our EMBA program is continually growing in relevance and stature." Carroll cites the fact that the Saint Mary's program is now ranked the #5 EMBA program in Canada. "Over the last 25 years, more than 600 people have graduated, and they are making an incredible impact in all corners of the world." ✧

EMBA alumni, please be in touch with details of your life and career since graduation at Kellyl.smith@smu.ca

WARM WELCOME FOR NEW VICE-PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT

BY RENÉE HARTLEIB

Erin Sargeant Greenwood arrived in Halifax in early February, just before a slew of winter storms saw closures across the province. "Although it might have seemed like it, I did not bring the snow from Ontario," laughs Sargeant Greenwood, the University's new Vice-President of Advancement.

Born and raised in Central Ontario, in the Kingston area, Sargeant Greenwood completed her undergrad degree in English Literature combined with Business at Wilfrid Laurier University. While there, as a volunteer, she co-founded Laurier's Student Alumni Association and worked in student recruitment and residence life, among other things. These roles and experiences led her to an Advancement position at Nipissing University right after graduation. "I got an early start in the Advancement field, and consider myself lucky to have been able to move right into my career path from my studies."

In the years that followed, there were positions at York University, as a consultant for KCI (Ketchum Canada Inc.), Branksome Hall, and finally the University of Waterloo for 8 years, where she served first as the Associate Vice-President, Development and then Interim Vice-President, Advancement until coming to Saint Mary's.

"Erin brings more than 20 years of experience in advancement and not-for-profit management to Saint Mary's," said Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray, President of Saint Mary's University. "This is a new portfolio for the University and Erin will have an important role to play in advancing the goals and ambitions outlined in our Institutional Strategic Plan."

In her first few months on the job, Sargeant Greenwood has been hard at work, engaging with the internal Saint Mary's community, our active alumni community, and external benefactors. She is eager to meet as many Saint Mary's alumni as possible, and will be travelling to various alumni events over her first year on the job. "I'm keen to engage with all the Saint Mary's champions out there, hear their stories, and also hear their ideas on how they can help the University achieve its goals."

In her off time, the new Vice-President of Advancement is also getting to know the new city that she, her husband, and their two sons now call home. "We saw this move as an opportunity to do new and exciting things as a family, and we've been having a terrific time so far." From exploring the city's wide variety of restaurants to getting out in nature, her family is happily exploring what the community has to offer.

As for her welcome at Saint Mary's, she was pleased, but not surprised, by the openness and warmth with which she's been greeted. "I've long heard wonderful things about Saint Mary's and the region in general," she says. "I've been so gratified and energized by the eagerness people are showing in wanting to engage and learn about advancement and about me. It has taken my feelings of optimism and confidence, and elevated them to a whole other level." ✧

The Office of Advancement at Saint Mary's University is comprised of its Alumni and Development programs, Advancement Services and Operations, and External Affairs, including institutional communications and community engagement, along with responsibility for the Saint Mary's University Art Gallery.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

GOOD FOR BUSINESS

BY KATE WATSON

Sarah Jamer, far back right (blue blouse), along with the rest of the 2016 BMO Millennial Advisory Council

In the fall of 2015, Sarah Jamer, BComm'16, had an eye-opening experience. She and 29 other female student leaders from post-secondary institutions across Canada were invited to be part of the inaugural BMO Millennial Advisory Council.

The Council was formed as a joint initiative between the Bank of Montreal and Catalyst Canada—the leading non-profit organization advancing women and inclusive workplaces. The idea was that millennials, a group which is projected to make up to 50% of the workforce by 2020, should be involved in shaping a corporate culture that embraces and reflects the importance of equality, inclusivity, and diversity.

The Council members came together in Toronto that November for the Catalyst Canada Honours Conference, an annual event that explores and celebrates ways to close the gender gap and build inclusive workplaces in Canadian business.

"I know this sounds naïve, but I honestly didn't think gender bias still existed," says Jamer. "I didn't experience or observe bias or discrimination in my university life, so I never in a million years believed one of my male colleagues would get paid more than I would purely, based on gender."

After a series of panel discussions, workshops, and roundtable meetings that explored the issue of gender equality, Jamer realized there was still a lot of work to be done. "One thing that the experience really highlighted for me is that although things have come a long way for women, not everything has been solved."

Jamer says that while they didn't come up with the single magic bullet to address these issues, there were plenty of actionable suggestions. "At that time, I was head of the Commerce Society, and a really useful take-away for me was the idea that when we planned events, we needed to carefully consider their make-up. Were we continuously having older white males speaking?"

She also championed the idea that universities should strive for equal and diverse representation on their boards.

In 2016, a new Council was selected, but previous members were invited to bring a colleague to a special event in Toronto that included networking with BMO and Catalyst executives and a full-day workshop. Jamer chose to bring Nicole MacPherson, a Saint Mary's Commerce student who received a Student Leadership Award for her work with Enactus, Model UN, and the Business Development Centre.

"The brilliant thing about how the Council works is that we're learning new things, and BMO and Catalyst are keeping us in the loop and learning from our insights," Jamer says. "We're also charged with bringing the dialogue back to our communities."

The experience influenced Jamer's own career path after her graduation in 2016. She took a job as a business development consultant at David Aplin Group, a company that has a high number of female leaders within it.

"I chose a company that focuses on development, mentorship, and sponsorship," she says. "Having mentors who help me define and achieve goals, and sponsors who look for the opportunities for my voice to be heard, has been invaluable."

And while Jamer believes that gender equality and diversity need to become a priority in Canadian workplaces, she is not a fan of quotas. "I believe in targets, not quotas. People should be hired because they have the skill set to do the job, not because of

Saeed El-Darahali, BSc '02, MBA'04

their gender."

This is something that Saeed El-Darahali BSc'02, MBA'04 agrees with whole-heartedly.

He's the President and CEO of SimplyCast, one of the world's top platforms for marketing automation. When he was 12 years old, his family emigrated from Kuwait to Canada, where his father, an engineer by trade, and his mother, a teacher, were unable to get work in their chosen professions. As a teen, El-Darahali worked several jobs to help support his family. He says that, in part, his entrepreneurial spirit was forged by the desire to create opportunities for job seekers who have skills but lack experience.

El-Darahali has made a conscious commitment to reflect diversity and inclusion in his business, but not through imposed quotas. "At SimplyCast, we believe in hiring the best person for the job," he explains. "For us, that means we have employees with different levels of experience and education in a wide range of ages representing about a dozen different countries."

El-Darahali's vision reaches outside his own company. As the Chair of the Immigration and Retention Committee for the OneNS Coalition, he spreads the message that a diverse and inclusive workforce is beneficial on many levels. "Employers who value diversity and inclusion are building capacity not just for their own businesses, but for Nova Scotia as a whole," he says. "They increase market share and create a satisfied, diverse customer base."

As the special guest speaker at Saint Mary's Winter Convocation, El-Darahali talked about how much trouble he had finding work right out of school. "I promised myself that when I started my own company, I would hire as many youth as humanly possible and become the model on how to train the next generation of leaders."

He's done more than that. El-Darahali walks his talk when it comes to diversity. SimplyCast has hired people with no formal education, people over the age of 50, people with disabilities, and people from China, Kuwait, India, Iran, and Palestine, as well as people from Charlottetown, Kentville, and Truro. "No matter your ethnicity, gender, age, national origin, disabilities, sexual orientation, education, or religion, we respect you as a person. Your ideas are valued and listened to."

For El-Darahali, there is no question that his company is stronger and more profitable because of the diversity within it.

"Diversity of human capital creates diverse thought, ideas, and innovations. Diversity in the workplace is about much more than gender, race, or sexuality; it's about what results from such a wide range of knowledge, experiences, and perspectives," he says. "If you don't make diversity a priority, you're holding yourself back." ✧

Stephanie Winter

WORDS FROM THE ROUNDTABLE

GOOD FOR BUSINESS

BY SUZANNE ROBICHEAU

Immigration and innovation were the hot topics on January 26, 2017, when Saint Mary's welcomed government Ministers Navdeep Bains, Lena Diab, BA'85, Scott Brison, and Ahmed Hussen to a roundtable discussion that included faculty, staff, students, members of the University's Board of Governors, and external stakeholders.

"It was an historic event that gathered together a wide cross section of the Canadian fabric," said panel moderator Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray, President and Vice-Chancellor of Saint Mary's University. "Discussion centered around how universities in Atlantic Canada can attract and support international students, what role should be played by employers and the broader community, and what more government can do."

Speaking on the immigrant experience, Saint Mary's alumna Stephanie Winter, BComm'12, MTEI'17, received a round of applause for her description of the challenges in moving from Antigua to Canada in 2007 to attend the Sobey School of Business. After completing a Bachelor of Commerce degree, and accepting an exciting new job as a business systems analyst with RBC in Toronto, she

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

Najwan Al Barghouthi

discovered she would need to return to Antigua in order to obtain a permanent residence permit.

"I had to abandon everything I had built in Canada and go home," she recalls.

Once back in Antigua, Winter applied for permanent residence under a different category. Thanks to a generous scholarship established by alumni Mike and Catherine Durland, BComm'87, DComm'10, she was able to return to Saint Mary's and graduate for a second time from the Sobey School of Business in January 2017 with a Master of Technology Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

Moving to Nova Scotia was equally challenging for Najwan Al Barghouthi, a chemist from Jordan who arrived in Canada in 2011 with her husband and children. After four years of low wages and part-time employment, she was ready to give up and go back to Jordan, but her teenaged son said something that changed her mind.

"He told me that his life and his future are both in Nova Scotia," says Al Barghouthi. "This is his home."

A pivotal factor in her decision to stay was an offer to do research in the area of contaminants and safe drinking water with Saint Mary's Chemistry professor Christa Brosseau. That, in turn, led to admission into the Faculty of Science, where Al Barghouthi is now pursuing a master's degree in Chemistry.

"Dr. Brosseau shifted my life," says Al Barghouthi. "I can never thank her enough."

"Stories like Najwan and Stephanie's transform all of us," says President Summerby-Murray. "As one of the most internationally diverse university campuses in Canada, Saint Mary's is committed to attracting and retaining international students and ensuring they have the opportunity to make Nova Scotia, and the greater Atlantic region, their permanent home."

Roundtable participant Saeed El-Darahali (BSc'02, CHR'02, MBA'04) echoed this sentiment, stressing the critical contributions made by all immigrants. "Employers need to do more," said El-Darahali, President and CEO of SimplyCast and Chair of the Immigration and Retention Committee for the OneNS Coalition. "We have a wonderful region and an amazing standard of life, but without jobs, international students won't stay here."

The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, also reinforced the importance of immigrants to the Canadian economy, describing diversity as our country's competitive advantage, and people as the most important component of an innovative economy.

Similarly, the story of immigration is the story of Canada for The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. After arriving in this country at the age of 16 as a refugee, Hussen surmounted many obstacles on his way to becoming an immigration lawyer.

As a result, he is determined to make it easier for international students to stay in Canada and contribute to an agenda of innovation. "I want to clear the path to permanent residency," he says. "The process needs to be easier." ✧

THE JOY OF GIVING

PAM WINSOR

Pam Winsor (EMBA'00) credits Saint Mary's University and the EMBA she earned at the Sobey School of Business with putting her on the path to a dream career. As the Senior Director of Health Policy, Stakeholder Engagement & Chief Marketing Officer for Medtronic Canada, Pam is proud to play a lead role in Canadian healthcare.

"Medtronic is a global, multinational that develops transformative medical technologies, like the insulin pump, as well as services and solutions," explains Pam. "My job is to improve the access Canadians have to these new offerings, and to ensure that Canadians truly get timely access and the very best health outcomes and value from what we deliver. I love what I do!"

When Pam interviewed for the Sobey EMBA program, she had 25 years of work experience, first as a nurse, and next, as a pharmaceutical representative. What she didn't have was an undergraduate degree.

"Saint Mary's took a chance on me," she says, "and here I am today."

As a way of thanking Saint Mary's for taking that chance, Pam established The Dwyer-Winsor Family Scholarship in 2015. As the first named EMBA award at the Sobey School of Business, it is given annually to a student who shares Pam's resilience and passion for new challenges.

"I want to provide opportunities for those who have a fire in their bellies and yet, do not have all the resources required," says Pam. "There have been two recipients so far. When their thank you letters arrived, I made a point of sitting down with my two daughters and reading them together. It's very important to me that my girls feel part of these awards, and that they appreciate the tremendous power of giving!

JOSEPH DANIEL

There's no shortage of Saint Mary's talk at Joseph Daniel's family dinners. Joseph graduated from Saint Mary's in 1992 with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. His older brother and one sister also graduated from the Sobey School of Business and a niece just completed her second year. To add to the mix, his wife, Dr. Jocelyne Faddoul, works at Saint Mary's as an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computing Science.

"I'm also connected through my position as general manager of Cresco," says Joseph. "Taleb Abidali, one of our company's two principals, received a Doctor of Civil Law from Saint Mary's in 2015. Our Controller, Assistant Controller, and Operations Manager all have Bachelor of Commerce degrees from the Sobey School of Business, and our Development Manager is presently in the second year of a Sobey Executive MBA program."

Joseph lived at home in Dartmouth while attending Saint Mary's. With the money he saved working part time during high school and university, combined with a scholarship for Lebanese students and help from his family, he managed to graduate debt-free.

"While other recent graduates were struggling to pay down student loans, I was able to begin paying it forward by contributing to the University's annual giving appeal," says Joseph. "Saint Mary's gave me the foundation for a successful career and a very rewarding life, so it only felt right to make my initial gift and then to continue giving over the years."

DR. SASTRY AND SUSEELA VANKAMAMIDI

Dr. Sastry Vankamamidi understands the power of student financial aid. Sastry arrived in Halifax from India in 1973 on a Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship. After earning his PhD, he joined the Saint Mary's Faculty of Engineering in 1985 and became a full time associate professor the following year. A well-respected teacher, he soon earned a reputation for knowing all his students by name

Dr. Sastry Vankamamidi, Annette Duggan, Joel Best, and Suseela Vankamamidi.

and taking a genuine interest in their success.

Sastry retired from Saint Mary's 10 years ago, yet he remains an active member of the University community. He continues to make annual donations to support a bursary in his name, and he and his wife, Suseela, work year-round to raise funds for a bursary they established in her name. What's more, they do it in a delightful way: by selling Suseela's delicious, homemade samosas to our faculty and staff.

"It gives Suseela great joy to do this," says Sastry. "We also donate some of the proceeds from samosa sales to the education of children in India through the Tribal Education Project in Ghatshila City."

During a student recognition reception at Saint Mary's on March 28th, Sastry and Suseela had the opportunity to meet Joel Best, this year's recipient of the Dr. Sastry Vankamamidi Family Bursary, and Annette Duggan, who received the Suseela Vankamamidi Family Bursary.

"We are both very grateful for all Saint Mary's has done for us and it gives us great pleasure to give something back," says Sastry. "There's also a special joy in meeting the engineering students who receive our awards. Their many ways of saying thank you are etched in my memory."

STEPHANIE CLEARY

With parents like Betty (nee Flinn) and Kevin Cleary (BA'57, BEd'58, MA'61), Stephanie Cleary, QC (BSc'86) was destined to love Saint Mary's University.

"Dad was the Registrar when I was born and went on to serve as Secretary to the Senate until his retirement in 1999," she says. "I was born a Husky and grew up racing around the halls of McNally!"

Kevin Cleary arrived at Saint Mary's in 1951 to begin what would be the first of three degrees. The first in his family to attend university, he was an enthusiastic member of theatre productions, a talented inter-class athlete, and a proud trainer and manager of varsity teams.

"Scholarships played a huge role in helping him succeed and they've done the same for me," says Stephanie, a Provincial Court Judge who lives in Fort McMurray with her husband and two sons. "Dad made a good living, but with five kids in the family, there wasn't much money to spare."

More than 30 years have passed, but Stephanie still remembers having tea with Joseph and Marguerite Hinman, donors of one of the scholarships she received. "I was so grateful to them that I decided to one day do my part for others."

The opportunity arose in 1989 when her parents established the Betty Cleary Memorial Scholarship – now called the Cleary Family Scholarship – to support upper year Chemistry undergraduates. "Four of us 'Cleary kids' and six of my mother's eight siblings graduated from Saint Mary's," says Stephanie.

"A family scholarship fund was the perfect way to give back and at the same time, celebrate the strong connection both of our parents had with the University. It's so rewarding to see how small contributions can add up over time to create something significant for deserving students." ✧

Stephanie Cleary, as a child, attending convocation ceremonies with her father, Kevin Cleary.

EVENTS

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

Golden Grads, Class of 1966

These alumni celebrated their 50-year graduation from Saint Mary's at our Golden Grad Mass and Luncheon during Homecoming 2016. Class of 1967 - we will be celebrating your 50-year reunion at Homecoming 2017 from October 12th -15th! Watch for your invitation.

Homecoming 2016

We had a great turnout for Homecoming 2016 and we are already busy planning Homecoming 2017! It's going to be a big one with two Vanier Cup-winning Football teams being inducted into the Sport Hall of Fame. Save the dates : October 12th -15th 2017.

Antigua and Nassau Alumni Receptions

Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray, President of Saint Mary's; Mary Ann Daye, Director of Alumni Engagement; Marie Braswell, Director Admissions & Recruitment; Rob McNutt, Senior Recruitment & Admissions Officer hosted events in both Antigua and Nassau. There were fruitful discussions on how alumni can stay involved with the University and share their SMU experiences with prospective students.

The Parade of Lights

Over 100,000 people gathered in Halifax to watch the Parade of Lights in November. The weather was wet, but we had an enthusiastic group of current students and alumni who helped us walk in the parade and spread holiday cheer.

ALUMNI AWARDS

Saint Mary's alumni are making an impact in their communities all over the world. The annual Alumni Awards are an opportunity to recognize those achievements and honour our alumni. Do you know an alum who deserves recognition for their Santamarian spirit? Nominate them for one of the Alumni Awards, which are presented at the One World Alumni Awards Gala during Homecoming. The deadline for nominations is July 14, 2017. Visit **www.smu.ca/alumni** for more information.

Cross Canada Tour

We held alumni receptions in a number of cities across Canada this fall, including Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton, Moncton, Charlottetown, New Glasgow, and Saint John. It was great to connect with our alumni and hear about the wonderful things they are doing in their communities. Above is a picture from our alumni reception in Moncton, New Brunswick.

Fanfit

Fanfit was founded by SMU alumnus and Olympic paddler, Andrew Russell, MBS '14, and is a fundraiser for The Canadian Olympic Foundation. This event was held on campus and a number of students and alumni participated. Fanfit allows people to compare their athletic prowess against national and Olympic-calibre athletes.

Boston Tree Lighting

A group of alumni in the Boston area gathered before heading to the 75th Annual Christmas tree lighting. A fun time was had by all and it was great to see the Nova Scotia tree all lit up in Boston.

Cheering on our Huskies!

The Alumni Office spent lots of time cheering on our Huskies this year! We attended the games and handed out cheer gear to Huskies fans. Women's Hockey and Men's Basketball both made it to the CIS finals!

January Convocation

We welcomed more than 300 new graduates to our alumni family in January 2017. Our Alumni Honour Guard is part of the academic procession and walks in front of the graduates to symbolize welcoming them into the alumni family. We are always looking for honour guard volunteers. Please email alumni@smu.ca if you are interested in participating in future convocations.

Grad Class & Young Alumni Mixer

Our Young Alumni group hosted a Wine & Cheese mixer with members of the 2017 grad class. We had a great turnout and are looking forward to welcoming the Class of 2017 into our alumni family!

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Our website has an up-to-date list of alumni card partners, with more businesses joining the program all the time. Save at local shops, hotels, and on services like landscaping, video production, and more. Use your alumni card on campus to save 25% on a SMUfit membership and 20% on meeting space through Conference Services.

Visit www.smu.ca/alumni for a full list of partners.

Our alumni card partners represent a variety of businesses, some owned and operated by SMU alumni. If your business would like to offer a discount to SMU alumni, let us know at alumni@smu.ca.

ALUMNI CARD SPOTLIGHT

CAR SHARE ATLANTIC

What exactly is carsharing? Car access, without the burden of ownership. Carsharing members have access to a fleet of clean, affordable, environmentally friendly vehicles, including one parked right on the SMU campus! Cars can be booked 24/7/365, by the hour, day, or week for errands, day trips, or vacations. You drive, we take care of the rest!

SMU Alumni are eligible to receive a $40 credit toward any annual fee. Use the code SMUALUMNI at checkout to receive this discount on your chosen membership. Members also receive perks and discounts including free parking at Park Lane Mall, Brunswick Place, Scotia Square Mall parkades, and the Waterfront and Port parking lots.

For more information please visit carshareatlantic.ca or email communications@carshareatlantic.ca

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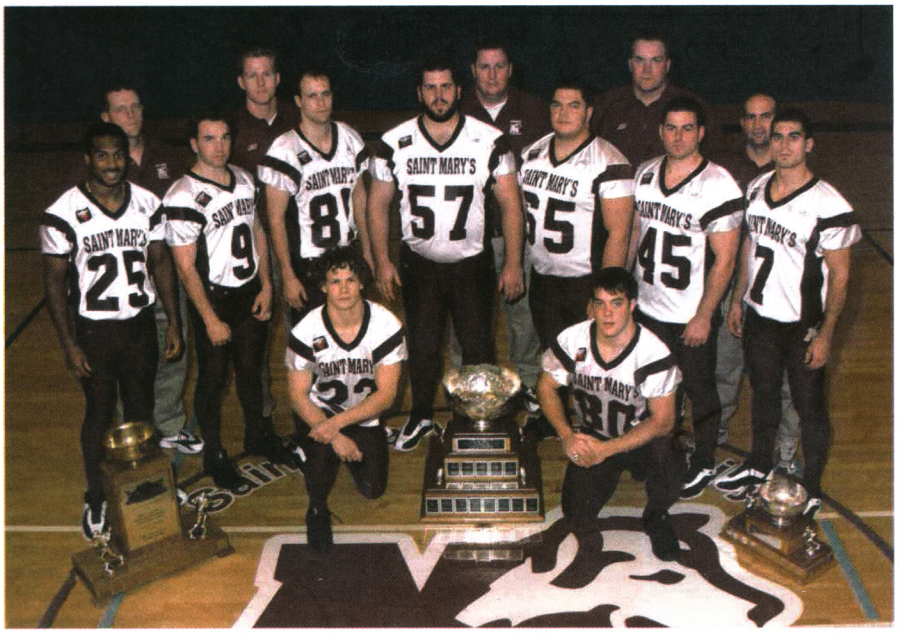
A one-time application fee of $35 applies to new personal memberships.

HOMECOMING 2017

CELEBRATING OUR VANIER CUP CHAMPIONS OF 2001 & 2002



Homecoming 2017 will be a very special time as we celebrate the induction of the 2001 and 2002 Vanier Cup-winning Huskies football teams to the Saint Mary's Sport Hall of Fame.

In 2001 & 2002, the Huskies football team, under the direction of Coach Blake Nill, did something that hadn't been done in 25 years. They won back-to-back Vanier Cups. Assistant Coach at the time, Steve Sumarah, considered the 2001 football Huskies to be "the most dominant team in the history of Canadian university football."

Larry Uteck, SMU athletic director and former Huskies football coach passed away on Christmas Day 2002. In delivering Larry's eulogy, Bill Scollard BComm'91, a former Husky standout, read a letter he had written to his former coach. In it, he talked about Coach Uteck's belief that winning and losing are both contagious. "The 2001 & 2002 Huskies football teams experienced the contagious spirit of Larry Uteck's belief on winning."

All alumni are invited back for Homecoming 2017, happening on Oct 12-15, 2017. The induction ceremony for the teams will be held on Sunday, October 15 at 9am at the Homburg Centre (former Tower). Celebrations will continue all weekend with a pub night and the football game versus Bishop's on Saturday. Please check the website for regular updates at www.smu.ca/homecoming. ✧

Do you know an alumni who deserves recognition for their outstanding contributions to their community? Nominate them for an alumni award today! Deadline is July 14, 2017. More info at www.smu.ca/alumni.

Looking for volunteer opportunities? The Saint Mary's Alumni Association is seeking nominations for the Alumni Council. Help us inform our programming to our 50,000 alumni! Please send a letter of interest with your CV to alumni@smu.ca by August 11, 2017.

CLASS NOTES

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

1959

Dr. Brian Flemming BSc'59, LLD'14 was recently appointed to the Council of Canadian Academics (CCA) Expert Panel on the Transportation Needs of an Aging Population.

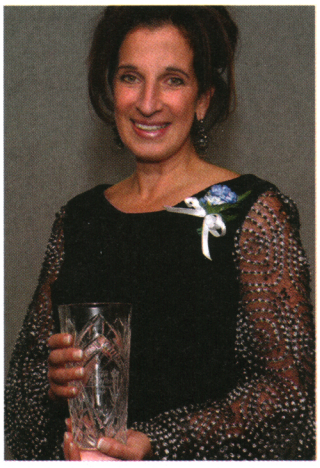
An international lawyer and a public policy advisor, he is one of Canada's leading experts on transportation policy and the international law of the sea. He is a also a member of the Order of Canada and has two honorary degrees.

1983

Nancy (Plant) Pipes BA'83 retired last June after 31 years as a high school English teacher in Alberta and New Brunswick. This past fall, she and her husband, Dan, moved to Iqaluit to begin their next adventure. After Dan retires from the RCMP, the long-term plan is to settle in Nova Scotia, where their two adult children (Sam and Alex) currently live.

1985

Rachél Starbuck (Ivarsson Klein) BA'85 became Museum Director for the Luck Area Historical Society in Wisconsin last June. Rachel is in charge of museum operations and developing their programming, events, and fund raising efforts. Luck is located 90 minutes northeast of Minneapolis Twin Cities, and is the Home of the Duncan Yo-Yo (where over 30,000,000 were made and sold between the 1940s-1960s).



1986

Dr. Jenine Arab-O'Mally BSc'86 was recently awarded the Progress Club Women of Excellence Award 2015 – Health Sport and Wellness. She was recognized for her valuable professional, community, and professional accomplishments. In addition, Jenine was also chosen as one of the Top 25 Women in Dentistry (Dental Products Report), for her leadership and contribution to progressive advancements in the industry.

Dr. Leroy Lowe, DipENG'83, BSc'86, EMBA'00 received the 2016 award for a Distinguished Contribution to Cancer Prevention from the Environmental Working Group (EWG) in San Francisco. Leroy is President of Getting to Know Cancer (www.gettingtoknowcancer.or) and is pictured here at the award dinner with Ken Cook, EWG President.

1990

Mark Collins BA'90 was recently appointed the President and CEO of BC Ferries. A senior marine executive for the past 20 years, he served as the Vice President of Strategic Planning & Community Engagement at BC Ferries from 2014-2017, and was the Vice President of Engineering for eight years prior to that. Mark was also President of Rolls Royce Marine Brazil and Italy, and Vice President of Global Technical Services, CSL Group.

1994

Scott Munro BA'94, BEd'95 was recently awarded Coach of the Year for Women's Basketball by Atlantic University Sport (AUS). From 1990-2003, Scott coached both men's and women's basketball at Saint Mary's and as an NCCP level three certified coach has led the Nova Scotia Provincial Team nine times. Scott was also head coach for Nova Scotia in the 2005 Canada Summer games, leading Nova Scotia to its first medal in 29 years.

1998

Jeff Hutt BComm'98, former Huskies football player, named Commander of HMCS Charlottetown in January 2017.

2007

Adam Lord BComm'07 was elected Mayor of Miramichi last November, after being first elected as a member of Miramichi City Council in May 2016 and then appointed Deputy Mayor. When Mayor Jerry Cormier passed away, a by-election was held. Adam resigned from council to run for mayor and won by 2255 votes.

Ashley McKenzie BA'07 won Best Atlantic Canadian Director at the Atlantic Film Festival in September 2016. Her film "Werewolf" was named one of Toronto International Film Festival's Top 10 Canadian Films of 2016.

2014

Justine Colley-Leger BComm'14 was named Honorary Chair of the Subway AUS Basketball Championships, which took place March 3-5 at the Scotiabank Centre in Halifax.

2015

Matt Albright BSc'15 is a member of Grey-Cup winning Ottawa Redblacks. A former Huskies player, Matt was first drafted by the BC Lions in 2013, and after one year, was selected by Ottawa in the 2013 CFL Expansion Draft. Nigel Romick, a former student of Saint Mary's University, also plays for the Redblacks.

Matt Burke MBACMA'15 has been appointed Treasurer of Fierte Canada Pride in February 2017.

2016

Tim Cranston MTEI'16 was awarded 2016 Nova Scotia Discovery Award for Science & Technology (Innovation Category).

In Memoriam

D. Robert Annand, BComm'90
April 6, 2016

Khaldoun Abu-Dayyeh BComm'13
October 10, 2016

Karl Baker BComm'76
October 26, 2016

Gerald Beech BA'68, MA'70
December 7, 2015

Donald Bryson BComm'75
January 19, 2017

Irene Clark, BA'84
January 17, 2017

Douglas Clark BComm'92
September 23, 2016

Ralph Curran Associate Alumni
February 23, 2017

Joseph Feeney BA'68, BEd'69, MA'72
March 31, 2017

Paul Glenister High School '48
May 9, 2016

Christopher Grace, BA'85
December 31, 2017

Stephen Hadley BComm'79
January 30, 2017

David Keleher High School '67
September 30, 2016

Paul Lynch BComm'76
March 2, 2017

Carol Manchester BComm'87
February 6, 2017

Peggy Martin BA'06, CertHRM'07
November 21, 2016

Michael McCormick BA'83, BEd'84, MA'88
December 3, 2016

Roland McDonah BComm'65
February 22, 2017

Stuart McLean DOCL'12
February 15, 2017

Jessie Miller BA'74, BEd'74, MA'77
December 2, 2016

Les Muise BComm'76
February 17, 2017

Dr. John D Nause BA'59, BEd'84
July 18, 2016

Brian Neilson, BA'82
January 27, 2017

Daniel O'Brien BComm'60
October 30, 2016

John "Osi" Osidach BA'69
March 13, 2016

Rev. Terrence O'Toole BA'48
January 18, 2017

Graeme Rudderham DipENG'91
January 22, 2017

Richard Sack BComm'93
December 24, 2016

Thomas Stephens BA'97
January 5, 2017

Robert William BSc'00, MSc'14
December 22, 2016

Scott Wolstenholme BComm'78
January 1, 2017

News About Your Favourite Profs!
MIT Professor Sara Seager has been named 2017 MacLennan Memorial Lecturer in Astronomy.

Dr. Rob Thacker, from the Astronomy & Physics Department is now a weekly science columnist on CBC Radio 1 "Mainstreet" in Halifax.

Accounting professor, Nickie Young, was awarded the inaugural CPA Canada Volunteer Award in December 2016.

ECMA News!
Several alumni were nominated for ECMA awards including Dave Gunning BComm'96, Kayo (Filbert Saltan) BComm'12, and Trevor Murphy CertHonsArt'09 (of the band Quiet Parade and the radio show Halifax is Burning).

"The littlest thing tripped me up in more ways than one."

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ONE YEAR LATER

FINDING MEANING IN GRIEF AND LOSS

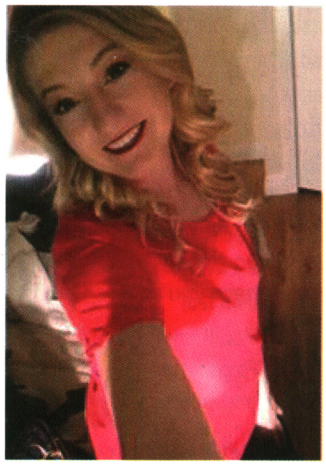
BY RENÉE HARTLEIB

Far left, Dr. Brent Conrad; front row Kala Rafuse (purple on jacket); front row centre Megan Wright (next to Kala and wearing bright blue hoodie)

Cayley Fox and Kala Rafuse knew each other since they were three years old. The same pre-school, the same elementary school, the same high school, and then the same university. While Cayley entered the Sciences at Saint Mary's, Kala studied Criminology and Sociology, but the two remained close.

Kala described Cayley as confident, well-liked, hilarious, and someone who never failed to light up any room she walked into. Cayley was also depressed, but not many people knew that.

In the fall of 2015, Cayley took herself to a Halifax hospital multiple times because she was suicidal. Each time, she was released within a few hours, and due to privacy laws, members of her family were not notified.



Cayley Fox

On January 22, 2016, Cayley took her own life.

Her death quickly turned Cayley's mother, Carolyn, and some of Cayley's friends, including Kala, into mental health advocates. Within a few months, they had presented themselves to the Nova Scotia Legislature, advocating for the gaps in the mental health system to be closed, and for increased funding for counselling, resources, and support for young people. The proposed bill, which has yet to pass, is called Cayley's Law.

Back at Saint Mary's, Kala developed a passion for suicide prevention. She approached the Healthy Minds Team to see if she could partner with them in the creation of some awareness-raising events.

Healthy Minds Team Assistant, Megan Wright, and Kala sat down together and planned an entire week of programming for the Fall of 2016. It was called "Strength from

Loss: Survival After the Suicide of a Loved One," and included a suicide prevention 101 workshop, a vigil, a "survivor's night," an open house for students at The Counselling Centre, and a varsity basketball game promoting mental health supports on campus.

Kala, who works in Financial Aid at Saint Mary's, also felt strongly that she wanted to set up a scholarship in her friend's name. Fundraising for the Cayley Fox Memorial Award has already garnered approximately $10,000.

"A lot has happened in the year since Cayley died," says Kala. "There is more awareness around mental health issues and there are many new initiatives. I'm hopeful that these things will help other people who are in the same position Cayley was in. She couldn't get the help she needed, but hopefully others will be able to."

Dr. Brent Conrad, a clinical psychologist, believes that the dedication of people like Kala and the Healthy Minds Team is helping to decease the stigma of mental health issues, so that more people who need help can get it. "Research consistently finds that most people who could benefit from mental health treatment never reach out for assistance."

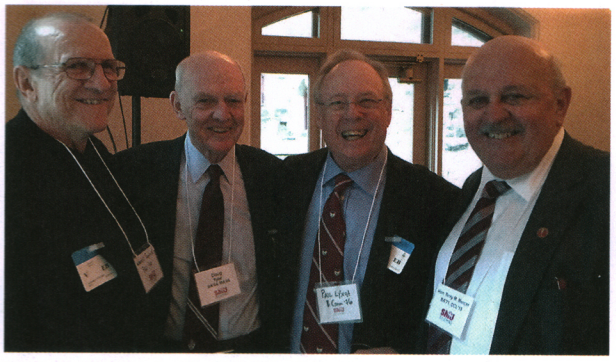
Conrad and his team often hear from alumni who wish that more mental health resources had existed when they went to school. He always encourages those people to give back. "Our students have already accomplished so much with small amounts of funding," he says. "I can confidently say that more funding would allow us to reach more students, leave a larger impact on the community, further decrease stigma, and save lives." ✧

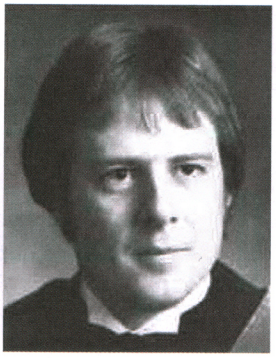
To donate please visit:
www.smu.ca/give

REMEMBERING PAUL LYNCH

BCOMM'76 (1947-2017)

BY MARY-EVELYN TERNAN
PAST PRESIDENT, ALUMNI COUNCIL
BA'69, BED'70, MED'88





L to R, Wendell Sanford Bed'70, Doug Tyler BA'64 MA'68, Paul Lynch BComm'76, and Senator Terry Mercer BA'71 DCL'13 at the Spring 2016 Parliament Hill Alumni Reception

Paul Lynch and I went to Primary together, at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, and then lost touch. Although I always followed news of Paul through Maroon & White, we didn't really get reacquainted until I became SMU Alumni President in the fall of 2014.

It was so wonderful to reconnect with him and discover all of the people we had in common and how much we both loved SMU. He was such a hard working and committed Santamarian. Paul really was bigger than life and did not allow his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer more than two years ago, to slow him down. He continued to support our alumni activities, be a wonderful husband to Lisa, father and doting grandfather, special little brother, great friend, and a world traveller. He was a proud family man and was very happy to tell me that his sister, Dianne, had written a children's book available in Spanish and English. It is about a Brown Pelican entitled "Pedro's Dream." It was so typical of Paul to support and be so proud of his family.

Paul was the heart and soul of the SMU Chapter in Ottawa for well over 20 years. He organized the annual Christmas Brunch, the Curling Bonspiel, and the Husky Howler Golf Tournament, and attended as many of the university events in Ottawa as he could. If he was in town and not skiing, he was there. He was always good humoured and ready to roll with any event. His initiative and support will be missed.

I will fondly remember our visit to Ottawa last year for our annual Parliament Hill Alumni Reception. Paul, along with Mary Ann Daye, Alumni Director, and fellow BOG member Mary-Lou Donnelly and myself, attended Question Period followed by a tour of the Speaker's Office. Paul had taught the Speaker, Geoff Regan, skiing when they were both much younger!

I wish that we had had more time to spend together, but alas, it was not to be. On a positive note, Paul made it possible for his sister, Dianne, and I to reconnect and that is special to me.

I hope Paul's story inspires you to make a donation to the Santamarian Fund in memory of this remarkable alumnus. As Dianne and Paul used to say: "Onwards and Upwards." ✧

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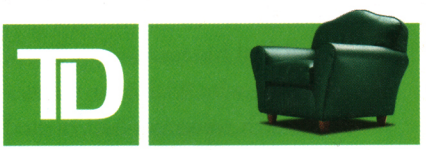

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