



Saint Mary's Times

Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia
June, 1990 • Volume 19 • Number 7

Dr. Ozmon will serve another term

"Saint Mary's is an exciting place," says President

I've done it!



Dr. Kenneth L. Ozmon, who came to Saint Mary's in 1979, has accepted a third term of office as President of the University and will serve for another six years, starting July 1, 1991. Dr. Ozmon, who was Dean of Arts at the University of Prince Edward Island before joining Saint Mary's, is the second layman in the University's 188-year history to hold the position.



Dr. Kenneth Ozmon

A search Committee established by the Board of Governors unanimously recommended that Dr. Ozmon be reappointed and this recommendation was accepted at a Board meeting on 25 April. During the selection process members of the University community were asked for input to a review of the President's previous term. Mr. Edward J. Flinn, QC, Chairman of the Board, says, "The Board of Governors and the Search Committee was impressed by the resounding endorsement of Dr. Ozmon (it received). He has enhanced the reputation of Saint Mary's University and there is no one more appropriate to lead the University through what will be challenging times."

it is always necessary to adjust to "the realities that impinge on you from day to day."

What would Dr. Ozmon like to have achieved when his new term of office ends in 1996? "I would like to see us strengthen our academic programs by providing the resources they need to strive for excellence," he says, "and I would also like us to be better known in Canada." He adds, "I would certainly like to see Saint Mary's improve its physical plant by

See page 2

Convocation special

Saint Mary's grad celebrates his achievement just after receiving his degree during Convocation at the Metro Centre May 7. Stories and photos, pages 5-7.

Chemistry prof top teacher

"The rewards for teaching are largely intangible, and it is delightful to receive a tangible reward for something I really enjoy," said Dr. John Young (Chemistry), on receiving an Award for Excellence in Science Teaching from the Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences (APICS) recently. The award is given annually and sponsored by Northern Telecom.

Dr. Young, who is perhaps best known for his research into new fluids for

use in district heating, has also contributed much to the teaching of science at Saint Mary's. He is a member of the Quality of Teaching Committee on campus and has initiated a program to promote the interests of elite students. He initiated a study for the faculty of science on why so many students experience difficulty with the introductory Calculus course. He has developed workshops for his colleagues on the use of computers in teaching.

In the early 1970s Dr. Young began working with some of his students on summer programs to give them research experience and, in some cases, paid employment.

To help students with their career plans, Dr. Young is developing a program of exchange visits and "mini-sabbaticals" for his students and the scientific staff of the New Brunswick Research Foundation. Back in 1981 Dr. Young, who is an avid

See page 2

SPECIAL FEATURE

Research at Saint Mary's

Compiled by Melanie Nolan

Pages 9-11

ATLANTIC PROVINCES COUNCIL FOR THE SCIENCES

Chemistry professor named top teacher

From page 1
computer buff, introduced the use of microcomputers for experimental simulation purposes in the University's freshman chemistry lab. He was also instrumental in starting a peer counselling

program in the chemistry Department which proved so successful that it now includes the entire science faculty and is being introduced into the faculty of arts. In this program first year students get help and

support from older students with all aspects of life at university.

In 1986 Dr. Young was the winner of the Father William Stewart S.J. Award for Teaching, Saint Mary's own teaching medal, and also in 1986 he represented Saint Mary's in a national multi-university effort of the Canadian Higher Education Research Network to develop a computer network aimed at creating strategies to improve student access to learning.

APICS confers its science teaching awards annually to outstanding teachers of science, technology or engineering, one at the secondary level, and another at the post-secondary level. Recipients are selected on the basis of having a comprehensive knowledge of their subject and their ability



Dr. John Young with three of his students, L to R: Cynthia Cleary, Chris Murray, Dr. Young, Rhona Lindsay.

to communicate in such a way that students are inspired to higher achievement in the sciences.

This award is one of several Northern Telecom education initiatives. Bill Smith, Vice-President, Atlantic Canada, for Northern Telecom believes, "It is essential that students receive more encouragement to enter the scientific and engineering fields." and says, "Businesses can and should be a part of this endeavour to enable Canada to improve its competitiveness in the future."

Dr. Ozmon to serve another term

From page 1

that time," "so that the amount of space we have for teaching and research and the library are adequate to the task I would like as much to see the operating finances put on a much more equitable and regular basis, so we can plan our programs better."

Staffing is another area that Dr. Ozmon sees will need attention during the next six years. He says, "I think one of the challenges of the next little while will be that of attracting new faculty members to replace the ones that will be thinking about retirement. If you look at the age profile of the faculty...it may well be approaching 50 years of age on average. All other universities are in the same boat and we are going to be recruiting from a small pool."

Asked what will be different about his third term as President, Dr. Ozmon says, "I think we are entering a new era. We have made some noticeable gains over the past 11 years, thanks to the talent and creativity of everyone, faculty, staff, students and alumni alike. We have to build on these. The only question is whether we are going to get the support we need, even from the people who are telling us what a good job we are doing, mainly the government."

Where tradition meets the future

by Chuck Bridges

"Where are we now?" is the question of a lot of people following the provincial government funding announcement in April.

The dollar answer is still at the end of a pencil and eraser as the budget is calculated and the impact on the four faculties and administration is tallied.

The people answer is already in view. We have just completed another record attendance academic year. Summer school is about the same as last year. The first summer session last year was jam packed primarily because of the strike at two metro universities and the impact the strikes had on students. This year with no such pressure, the Registrar has more than 1500 students already signed and ready to learn.

The second summer session doesn't appear to have any less demand than last year.

The next academic year is under scrutiny. This time last year, the question was "...will we have to close the Commerce and Arts faculties?"

We did. It looks the same this year.

What happened to dwindling enrolments? The experts said smaller families meant fewer children which meant fewer students. It should have translated into fewer universities.

It hasn't and the students just keep on comin'.

There is an argument that more students are accepted so that costs can be covered. It doesn't stand the commonsense test. No one would accept more students and further strain resources and threaten quality of education. More Nova Scotians come to Saint Mary's than any other group. More than half are from the metro area. More than 85 per cent are from Nova Scotia.

The demands of the information age and our shrinking globe insist that we are better educated and work smarter. Parents and students are recognizing this. They have no choice. Education is the motto of every politician, parent and tax payer.

It still however must translate into reasonable funding. There are four sources for universities. Fund raising, government funding, tuition fees and research. They ultimately all come from one source.

The recent reaction to threatened cuts in the elementary school system leaves no doubt as to the importance parents attach to education.

The question for government is where do they draw the line. How to make choices. Rewarding excellence is a good place.

Fiscal responsibility is the next step. Public accessibility is the third. If we are to educate for the future the support and recognition for doing well has to come all the way from the top and extend to the bottom line.

Psychology Conference a success

This year the annual Undergraduate Psychology Conference attracted almost 200 people, including students from local high schools who are considering a career in psychology.

The 32 poster presentations entered in the conference were judged by Dr. William Jones, Dean of Science, and Dr. Murray Schwartz, Director of Psychology at the Victoria General Hospital. The conference also included four oral presentations by Honors and Master's students.

The first prize for the best junior undergraduate research poster was awarded to F. Beals, L. Boone, T. Keahug, and C. and E. Parnell. Its subject was "The effect of bizarre versus common imagery on immediate recall."

The first prize for the best senior undergraduate research poster went to Margaret Demello, Trent Coady, Jim Burgess, Cathy Lane, Jeff Cooley, Heather Hollingsworth and Mike Lassaline. Its subject was "Pattern of naming deficits in Alzheimer's Disease."

The awards were presented by University president Dr. Kenneth L. Ozmon at a wine and cheese reception which ended the conference.

A friend of the University!



During the March 21 Athletics Banquet Bob Hayes (L) presented the Robert G. Hayes Award to Pat Connolly, whose wife Betty accepted it on his behalf. Connolly, who was a member of the Board of Governors of Saint Mary's in the 1970s, is a sports commentator, journalist, media personality and long time friend of the University. The award is given to honor someone from outside the immediate University community who has given service to the athletics program.

Times

Saint Mary's University
Halifax, N.S. B3H 3C3

May, 1990
Volume 19, Number 7

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

Director of Public Affairs:
Chuck Bridges
Editor: Anne West
Staff writer: Melanie Nolan
Design: Stu Ducklow

Academic Vice President moves to California

"Saint Mary's University has become part of me, so it was very hard to make the decision to leave," says Dr. Joseph Jabbar as he prepares to leave Saint Mary's to become Vice-President (Academic and Research) at Loyola Marymount University in Westchester, California. It was 1971 when Dr. Jabbar arrived in Halifax to teach political science. When he was appointed Vice-President (Academic and Research) in 1981 he was chair of the department. He continued to teach as vice-president because, as he says, "I love teaching and research." He will teach at Loyola Marymount, which is a Jesuit university in a suburb of Los Angeles. Dr. Jabbar will leave Saint Mary's at the end of May and will start his new job in July.

Science students receive graduate awards

Four Saint Mary's science students who graduated at the recent Convocation have been awarded first year graduate scholarships by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC). They are June G. Allison (Chemistry), Rhona I. Lindsay (Honors in Mathematics and Chemistry) who also received the University's medal for science, Rodney J. Snooks (Honors in Mathematics and Chemistry), and Robert J. Van den Hoogen, who graduated with First Class Honors in Mathematics and Physics.

Robert D. Curwin, who graduated from the Psychology Department last year, has also been awarded an NSERC scholarship for further study.

These scholarships are awarded to Canadian students with high academic standings for the purpose of pursuing graduate studies in Canada or abroad.

PIZZA HUT AND TIM HORTON'S OUTLETS COMING

Marriott retains food service contract

Marriott Corporation will continue to provide catering services to Saint Mary's University. The company, which has been on campus for 18 years, recently signed a five year contract with the University.

The contract is the result of the first open bidding process involving food services in the history of Saint Mary's. Last spring a committee headed by Guy Noel, Vice-President (Administration), called for bids on the multi-million dollar contract. Beaver Foods, Versa Services, Scott Foods, and Marriott responded. The open tender process was conducted by Mr. Noel, Keith Hotchkiss (Director of Student Services), Clay Fowler (Director of Residence) and Dana Clements (Co-ordinator of Conferences and Special Events). They sought input from many groups on campus, including SMUSA and more than 20 residence students.

"Each of the bids was analyzed in key areas," says Noel. "Financial considerations played a strong role in deciding which company could best meet the greater demands in both serving students, faculty and staff and handling the increased number of special events taking place on campus. As a result of the contract being awarded to Marriott, there will be substantial renovations...which will be completed over the

summer."

The student centre cafeteria will be renovated and a Pizza Hut installed. "The Cage" in the Colonnade will become home to a Tim Horton franchise and will have a "stop and go" food service. The emphasis will not be on junk food but on meeting the needs of students, faculty and staff for a quick stop for sandwiches, muffins and drinks.

Major construction will take place in the residence cafeteria, where there will also be changes to the menu and response to



Mario Lisi, Regional Operations Director for the Marriott Corporation, recently presented awards to staff members at Saint Mary's. He is seen here presenting Sue LeBlanc with her five year service plaque.

Acadia University, King's College and MT & T.

Lisi has recently returned to Metro after time with Marriott in central Canada. He says the contract "also marks Marriott's firm conviction that the food services contracts, particularly with Saint Mary's, will receive first class attention." He adds, "We have hired a catering training manager, Jane Hefler, who will work from Saint Mary's and will be responsible for a new phase in our service to the University. There will be a new focus on the training of staff, which is more than 120 people during the academic year. Jane brings a great deal of private enterprise expertise with her. She has worked in management at The Citadel Inn and most recently at Cambridge Suites."

requests to the students for a better deal on the amount of food made available.

There will be a \$300 limit on the amount students can spend in the Mini Mart, Keith Hotchkiss says, "We hope that this will send students to the cafeterias for more nutritious meals." The supper meal plan is also being improved to reflect requests from female students.

Mario Lisi, regional operations manager for Marriott, says the company's commitment to the new contract includes the opening of an Atlantic Region office. Mr. Lisi will oversee Marriott's contract with Saint Mary's, TUNS, Saint Francis Xavier,

Paul Gouett appeal ends

Thanks to the generosity of members of the University community, enough money has now been raised to pay for Paul's high tech. wheelchair. No more contributions are needed. Paul thanks everyone for their help and will demonstrate his new chair when it arrives.

Around campus



Philip Agee, former CIA agent and author of two bestsellers, *Inside the Company* and *On the Run*, spoke at Saint Mary's on March 15. His presentation was the first in a public lecture series on the global challenges of the 1990s sponsored by the Saint Mary's Visiting Speakers' Committee.

Approximately 80 people showed up to hear Agee recount tales of his involvement in the CIA and present his analysis of the social, economic and political reasons behind American foreign policy since the Second World War. He is an outspoken critic of American covert operations, particularly in Latin America, and has been exiled from the United States and expelled from five NATO countries for his views.



The City of Halifax recently commissioned a quilt from Mayflower Quilters as a gift for its twin city of Hakodate in Japan. A small quilt incorporating panels depicting Saint Mary's crest and the main entrance of McNally was also part of the gift, which was taken to Hakodate by a delegation which included Dr. John Lee of the History Department and art gallery curator Leighton Davis. The Saint Mary's panel is shown here by quilter Marilyn Turner.



A jar placed on the bar of the Gorsebrook Lounge yielded more than \$300 for the IWK Children's Hospital recently. Bartender Rod McLeod is seen here presenting the money to Zita Longobardi of the IWK Children's Hospital Foundation.



A small visitor solemnly wears a crown of trees during his visit to Earth Day displays in The Tower May 23.

Former economics professor survived Katyn Forest massacre in World War II

Re-printed from *This Week at Saint Mary's*, 26 November 1970.

THE Russian train clattered hurriedly on through the night. On board, the Polish army officers could not know their final destination.

Dr. Stanislaw Swianiewicz, now a professor of economics at Saint Mary's University, together with perhaps 300 other captured officers, had been cramped into the cells in the prison wagons on the previous day.

"We found on the walls of those cars some inscriptions carved by prisoners who had gone before us," he recalled. "They told us only that we must not expect to be sent home."

But, with the dawn, the train reached Smolensk.

"I recognized it at once. I travelled frequently on that line during the First World War, when my father was a railroad engineer working those regions. And I knew the Smolensk station by sight."

"I knew then that we were travelling westward - towards Poland! And, on leaving the station, we realized from the shadows of the telegraph poles that we were still continuing westward."

"This fact was greeted with joy," Swianiewicz wrote in his memoirs, "as many began to believe they were really taking us to Poland."

But, within minutes of leaving Smolensk, the train ground to a halt near a Russian village. And near Katyn Forest.

For all of the Polish prisoners aboard that train—except Swianiewicz—and for thousands of others before and after them, this was the end of the line.

The train ride to Katyn Forest began, in effect, eight months earlier when, on September 1, 1939, Germany's armies slashed into Poland to begin World War II.

While the Poles fought in the west, trying vainly to stem the Nazi drive, Soviet forces, on the seventeenth day of the war, attacked Poland from the east.

Caught between the two advancing armies, Polish soldiers attempted to withdraw to the south—to Romania and Hungary—fighting their way out of the pincer to join French and British forces. But Soviet cavalry flushed them from

THE Russian government has finally admitted that it was responsible for the murder of some 12,000 Polish army officers in Katyn Forest in 1940.

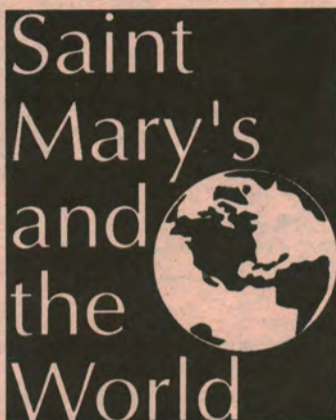
Dr. Stanislaus Swianiewicz should have been among their number, but, as the article which follows describes, luck led to his last minute escape.

He joined Saint Mary's as an economics professor in 1963 and taught until his retirement in 1973, when he was made a professor emeritus. In 1982 he was given an honorary degree by the University.

Now 90 years old, Dr. Swianiewicz is living in a home for

Polish senior citizens outside London, England. His book *In the Shadow of Katyn*, has finally been published in Polish and in March

this year he was interviewed on Polish radio about his experiences. Over the years he testified at a number of enquiries about the massacre and, when travelling to one such enquiry, was beaten up on a London street.



Dr. Stanislaw Swianiewicz

the forests, taking many prisoners.

Swianiewicz, a lieutenant in the front lines, was one of 12,000 Polish officers captured that fall by the Russians. A university professor before the war, he was interred with 4,000 of those officers in Kozielsk prison camp southwest of Moscow.

There, during the winter of 1939-40, the Poles were interrogated by teams of Russian secret police.

"It was obvious," according to Swianiewicz, "that these interrogations were to be the basis for the decision of what to do with the prisoners. It was a life and death decision."

BUT THE Poles were optimistic. The prison was overcrowded, but the officers received enough food to keep alive. And they believed that international intervention would free them.

After all, Russia was still officially neutral and, even though Soviet troops had invaded the country, Poland had not declared war against the Soviet Union. Russia had only occupied eastern Poland because the Polish state collapsed as Germany pushed into the country, and it became necessary to protect the Poles from chaos, or so the soviet rationale went.

Once interrogations ended in the spring of 1940, prisoners did indeed begin to leave the camp. The first Poles to quit Kozielsk were herded aboard a train on April 3. Thereafter, groups of about 300 prisoners left more or less regularly...for somewhere, but where?

Swianiewicz began the mysterious trip on April 29. It was the next day, a brilliant spring day, that the train stopped beyond Smolensk, and the prisoners were unloaded.

Only moments before it was Swianiewicz's turn to leave the prison wagon, a colonel of the NKVD, the Soviet secret police, entered, called his name, and had Swianiewicz follow him to another railroad car, already emptied.

Alone in a guarded cell, Swianiewicz heard the sounds at train side of a bus coming and going.

in or out, pulled up to a prison wagon, and about 30 Poles climbed inside.

Full, the bus pulled away, only to return half an hour or 45 minutes later...empty. The scene was repeated, and still more prisoners were driven away to the Katyn Forest Massacre.

Still unknowing—Swianiewicz wrote in his memoirs, "I did not know at that time what was happening there"—the professor was returned to Smolensk prison, and then sent to Moscow's Lubianka Prison where, for a year, he was subjected to continual interrogation. Only then did he learn the charge against him: Espionage!

As a scholar, Swianiewicz had become an expert on the Soviet economy and had published books on the subject. The Soviets considered this a kind of espionage, and claimed he had collected data for governments unfriendly to Russia.

Swianiewicz was not a political prisoner. He "belonged" to the chief prosecutor of the Soviet Union. And he faced the death penalty.

But his death sentence proved to be his salvation.

While his fellow prisoners rode off into Katyn Forest to waiting graves, Swianiewicz had been spared because he was under an indictment that carried the death penalty.

"You cannot shoot a man under investigation or indictment by judiciary authorities," he explains. "If I hadn't been a political prisoner, I would certainly have been killed with the others."

German perfidy next intervened to save his life.

When the Nazis turned on Russia in 1941, in complete disregard of their non-aggression pact, the Polish government, then in London, was reconciled with the soviets, and the execution of Poles was halted in Russia.

Instead of the expected death penalty, Swianiewicz was sentenced to eight years of forced labour. He was sent off into the Russian north, but was released 13 months later.

Once safe within the Polish embassy, Swianiewicz was pressed to recall his experiences aboard the prison train. Polish authorities hoped he could shed light on the puzzling disappearance of thousands of Polish officers.

With the reconciliation and the subsequent fielding

Although there were no windows in his cell, he discovered a tiny hole just under the roof of the prison. Pretending he was tired, Swianiewicz clambered up to a kind of luggage rack high on the wall, and laid down. His guard did not protest.

Peering through the hole, he found the train surrounded by secret police guards, bayonets fixed to their rifles. The red-faced NKVD colonel, a huge man, presided over the scene, his hands stuffed into the pockets of his grey coat.

A bus, its windows painted so no one could see

**CONVOCATION
SPECIAL**

Graduate, stay involved! The returns to you will exceed your efforts.

— Dr. Ronald Downie, Q.C.

Address to the graduates Dr. Ronald J. Downie, Q.C.

WE GATHER here today for this Convocation, this coming together of the Saint Mary's University community. Our assembled community encompasses students, faculty, administration, alumni and members of the Board of Governors, together with a broad spectrum of support groups ranging through spouses, parents and governments to simply good friends.

But why do we come together in this way? Why the celebration? All of us know that we celebrate because we wish to recognize those who have graduated and those who have earned special distinction at this University. And that is the nub of it; the recognition by this community of the achievement of a degree of learning at the University level.

We, all of us, are sometimes so preoccupied with completing our own tasks within the segmented structure of the University that we lose sight of the overall mission of this, or any, university. We will never know whether we strive for the proper goals and objectives if we do not appreciate our mission. And it is impossible to define our University's mission if we do not know what it is which makes an institution worthy of the designation "university."

What qualities of hardware or of performance distinguish a university from other endeavours within our society, and in particular, what qualities distinguish the university from other educational efforts? The currently popular response is that this



Saint Mary's gave honorary degrees to (L to R), Andrew Sarios, Joe Neil MacNeil, Claudette MacKay Lassonde, and Ronald J. Downie, Q.C.

process is education at the post-secondary level. We are involved in "learning at the post-secondary level." What a soulless phrase! What a bloodless designation to apply to what a great university should be all about. This expression does not, in any way, capture the purpose, the mission, of a university.

Is an organization a "university" because it can point to a number of pre-eminent researchers on staff, or because it has an artist or a musician in residence? Does the existence of a large student body make it a university? Will a building full of books justify use of the term?

How about a reasonable number (but never more than a reasonable number), of eccentric professors? If that is the sole test, then some organizations we know of would surely qualify. Not Saint Mary's, of course!

You all have heard it suggested that a university of the 1990s, of the 21st century, to justify its existence and its name, must train people to be efficient technocrats in this competitive computer age. Is that really what this is all about? There has to be more.

It has been said that if an animal looks, sounds and gallops like a horse, it probably is a horse. Using that analogy, how then should a university look, sound

and gallop?

The three traditional essentials for an institution such as ours to be worthy of the name are; first, the

See page 6



Students process to the Canadian Martyrs Church before the Baccalaureate Service.



Convocation Address

From page 5

gathering in and conservation of a significant body of learning, found both in people and in documents. Secondly, the expansion of that body of learning, by thought, writing and research; and thirdly, the dissemination of that body of learning, primarily by teaching students.

Those are lofty sentiments, but how do they work in practice?

Will those three essential pillars which must support a true university assist boards, senates, senior administrators and the whole community to decide upon such difficult day-to-day questions as:

- What portion of a professor's time should be allocated to research and what portion to classroom teaching?
- What is the proper balance at this University between undergraduate and graduate effort?
- What, if anything, should be said to the good teacher who does not publish?
- Is there an appropriate formula for the allocation of resources between buildings and equipment, teachers salaries and books and research?
- What is a reasonable allocation of funds for student recreation, sports and necessary exercise?
- How should the University account to us as taxpayers without endangering university and academic freedom?
- What should be the stance of this University when suggestions are made about rationalization, on a regional basis, of courses and of resources?

These and others are the areas in which boards, senates and senior administrators constantly function and where tough decisions are being made. It is not going to be any easier in the future. Who, in the near and not so near future, will be making these vital decisions about Saint Mary's and other universities? Like it or not, it will be you graduates, or some of you, as alumni, board members, faculty, administrators, members of government and as community people. This is, and will continue to be, your university.

I suggest that if we remember the purpose, or mission, of this University, we shall all, with hard work and goodwill, come through. Saint Mary's has a fine tradition of humanity, availability, scholarship and cordiality. Surely at Saint Mary's as we grow we must continue to strive to produce educated men and women who will have a desire to work ethically and efficiently in and for society for the total betterment of themselves and of their brothers and sisters.

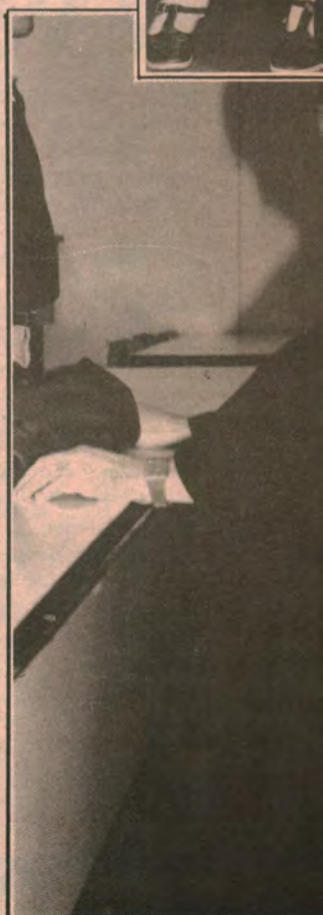


During my time as a student at Saint Mary's, we were told to exercise and develop our intellect, our psyche and our body. There was a theory at that time, held by our Jesuit teachers, that if the body was kept sufficiently exhausted there was far less chance of that body causing damage to the psyche!

Graduate stay involved! I invite you to do things in society that you don't have to do to make a living. And do those voluntary things out of a sense of fun! If the fun concept does not appeal to you, then, as a last resort, participate out of a sense of duty. But, for whatever reason, stay involved, and involved with this school. The returns to you, not bankable returns, but returns nevertheless, will exceed your efforts.

Photos

Clockwise from top left except for Grad Ball photos:
 Stephen Look Tong attaches Karen Furlotte's carnation.
 Saint Mary's graduates include members of the RCMP!
 Lighting the candles during the Baccalaureate Service.
 Some daughters get to help their mothers graduate!
 Beverage Programming Co-ordinator Darcy Flynn tries on his gown and gets used to the idea of having letters after his name!
 Suzanne Mombourquette receives her BA from Archbishop James M. Hayes, Chancellor of the University.
 Suzanne Methôt gives the Valedictorian address.





THE GRAD BALL

Right: Graduating Class President Rob McCarthy has his tie straightened
Below: Celebrating!



Left: Sean Murray, President of the Commerce Society, with Karen Smith, President of the Student Alumni Association and Darcy Bears, Treasurer of the Commerce Society. Karen and Darcy recently became engaged. Congratulations!



Left: Proud moms enjoy special brunch in the residence cafeteria on Sunday Morning.



Right: The Grad Ball is a formal occasion.

Academic Medal Winners

The winners of the 1990 medals for academic excellence were announced at Convocation. These medals are awarded to both undergraduate and graduate level students who have excelled in their field of study.

- ¶ Governor General's Silver Medal: Laurence M. Hickey, BA.
- ¶ Governor General's Gold Medal: Mary McCarthy, MSc, Applied Psychology.
- ¶ Centennial Scholarship Medal, donated by the Mining Society of Nova Scotia, Nadine Boyd, BSc.
- ¶ Faculty of Arts Gold Medal: Andrew J. Anthony, BA.
- ¶ Faculty of Science Gold Medal: Rhona I. Lindsay, BSc.
- ¶ Birks Medal for the Faculty of Commerce: Kimberley Butler, BComm.
- ¶ Division of Engineering Gold Medal: Lohn T. Hick, Diploma in Engineering
- ¶ Faculty of Education Gold Medal: Cheryl A. Martin, BA, BEd.
- ¶ Master's of Arts (Education) Gold Medal: Alan R. Dawe, BA, BEd, MA(Ed)
- ¶ Master of Education: Yue Ma, BA, MA, MEd.
- ¶ Master of Business Administration Medal: J. Robert MacQueen. BComm, MBA.



Left: Glamorous graduates celebrate at a reception hosted by the Saint Mary's University Alumni Association before the Graduation ball at the Halifax Sheraton.

Focus on teaching skills

Peer counselling system considered for Saint Mary's

by Anne West

FACULTY members at Saint Mary's may soon have a resource to help them hone their teaching skills. The Quality of Teaching Committee is exploring the possibility of setting up a peer counselling system and recently sponsored a seminar taught by Dr. Lois Stanford of the University of Alberta.

Dr. Geraldine Thomas, of the Quality of Teaching Committee, explains, "The program was developed at the University of Alberta in the early 80s. It involves faculty helping faculty on a volunteer basis...people who perceive that they need assistance with their teaching. Some may be burned out, others are new faculty members who have PhDs, but never had formal teaching methodology courses, others are long time teachers who perceive difficulties with a particular class, or simply want some ideas on how to improve their performance in the classroom."

Dr. Thomas believes there is more emphasis on quality teaching than there was ten years ago, both in Canada and the United States. She says, "People have become aware that teaching is not something we are born equally able to do. It is a skill that can be acquired. Anyone who is willing to work on it will see positive improvements. Not everyone is going to be a tremendous teacher, but each can at least be adequate."

The Alberta peer counselling program has two key elements. One is the fact that both counsellors and counselees are volunteers and the second is anonymity. In a university the size of Alberta, which has 2,000 faculty members, it is possible to ensure that pairs of faculty members do not be acquainted. Dr. Thomas sees this could be a problem at Saint Mary's, where most faculty members know each other, but she believes there are ways in which the program could be altered to suit our needs.

How does it work? Dr. Thomas explains that a core group of faculty members volunteer to be counsellors and are then trained in a way that reveals whether they are really suitable for the job. "We look for people who are quality teachers and also have the right inter-personal skills," she says. The training takes time and may involve the volunteers, "using each other as guinea pigs; putting themselves into the position of the observer and the person being observed."

With the team in place at the University of Alberta, faculty members who want to see whether their teaching skills can be improved approach a



Dr. Geraldine Thomas, with one of the artifacts from the classics museum.

colleague who has been designated "Instructional Development Officer" for the University. This person matches the faculty member with a volunteer counsellor. The two people meet and talk, then the counsellor is invited into the classroom to observe. The students are told that their professor is working to improve his or her teaching methods to help them better and they are assured that it is not an evaluation for promotion or tenure. Dr. Thomas says, "Students always say that they admire the faculty member

for undergoing this."

The next time the counsellor comes to the class the students are asked to complete questionnaires, then he or she arranges to meet a random selection of the students to talk about their professor. The counsellor then prepares a long report on the strengths and weaknesses of the professor. This report discusses methodology based on an assessment of whether the students are learning. Dr. Thomas says, "If the students are learning, then teaching is going on. If the teaching seems spectacular, but the students are not learning, something is terribly wrong."

The report is seen only by the two faculty members and may include a video giving examples of the professor's teaching style. After this process has taken place some faculty members ask for a further consultation a year or two down the line, just to see how much improvement has been achieved.

Peer counselling is based on the idea that most people are always seeking to improve their skills. Dr. Thomas says, "The people who come forward are usually quite competent teachers who would like to do better." However, volunteering to take part is not easy for faculty members. Dr. Thomas believes "Self esteem is often surprisingly low, in fact we may have all sorts of hidden fears about ourselves." She stresses that peer counselling has nothing to do with evaluation for review purposes or with course content and says, "With this system I would not go into a classroom where another classicist was teaching and comment on whether the content is appropriate for the class or the level. Teaching methods are the only thing under review."

Such a system can take several years to set up and Dr. Thomas says the Quality of Teaching Committee will now evaluate what it has learned from Lois Stanford and try to pick a model that will suit Saint Mary's. In Alberta it took two or three years to get off the ground and in the first few years only a very few people sought help.

Dr. Thomas writes: *Since our Quality of Teaching Committee has received some requests from individual faculty for assistance in improving their teaching, we are considering using the Alberta model to begin a gradual program for Peer Counselling. Faculty members who would like assistance with their teaching, and are willing to let us follow the Alberta model, are invited to contact me (local 5802), or any member of the Quality of Teaching Committee. We guarantee to protect their anonymity. We all can learn and become better teaching professors.*

Higgins Memorial Lecture



Dr. Larry McCann, director of the Centre for Canadian Studies at Mount Allison University, spoke on 'Cities to the Left: the Maritimes in Urbanizing Canada' at the second annual Donald Higgins Memorial Lecture March 7. Seen here are, left to right, a member of the audience, Dr. John Reid, chairman of the Donald Higgins Memorial Fund Committee and Dr. McCann.

Saint Mary's Marketing Students

place second in NB Tel Challenge

Four Saint Mary's students placed second in the annual NB Tel Marketing Challenge in March. The team of Susan Wood, Karen Jones, Chuck Coolen and Sean Murray presented a strategic marketing plan for NB Tel's cellular system expansion.



RESEARCH AT SAINT MARY'S



The next three pages describe a few of the exciting research projects

being undertaken by Saint Mary's faculty members.

Compiled by Melanie Nolan

The material for this research profile was provided by the members of the Political Science Department

Political Science at SMU— a profile

Dr. Ronald G. Landes

During the past decade, Dr. Landes' research has centred on the comparative analysis of political systems and political behaviour. The major result so far has been *The Canadian Polity: A Comparative Introduction* (Prentice-Hall Canada), which provides the first comparative analysis of Canadian politics published since the 1940s. This book, described by one reviewer as "a scholarly work in the truest meaning of the term," has been adopted as the basic college text for introductory political science classes throughout Canada, and in a number of major American schools. First published in 1983 and revised in 1987, *The Canadian Polity* will see its third edition in the Fall of 1990. A companion volume edited by Landes, *Canadian Politics: A Comparative Reader*, appeared in 1985.

As a result of the success of *The Canadian Polity*, Dr. Landes has signed a contract with Prentice-Hall (US) to write a comparative analysis of American politics, to be published in 1991. This work will attempt to identify the unique features of the American political process. In addition, he has signed contracts to produce two further books: one on political parties and one on international relations.

Professor Donald Naulls

Since 1979, Professor Naulls has been involved in research through the Comparative Central Agency Project with Dr. Colin Campbell of Georgetown University. His goal is to probe the immediate circle of politicians and officials surrounding modern chief executives in Canada, the United States, Great Britain and Australia. Over 300 interviews have been conducted with people in such places as the Prime Minister's Office, Privy Council Office, Treasury Board, the Finance Department, the Executive Office of the President, White House Office, and Treasury for both President Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan; and No. 10, the Cabinet Office and the HM Treasury in Great Britain.

This study has provided extensive analysis of the structures, responsibilities and relationships of officials to chief executives, and deals with a wide variety of issues of how chief executives organize their personnel for governance. Recent papers from this project include "The Consequences of a Minimalist Paradigm for Governance: Some Comparative Reflections on Charles Levine's Lament for the US Civil Service," and "The Limits of the Budget Maximizing Theory: Some Evidence from

Meech Lake, apartheid, German unification, Lithuania, Nicaragua, Gorbachev and an independent Quebec - we hear about these in the news everyday. Such major developments in Canadian and international politics demonstrate the need for timely political analysis and the importance of political science as an area of study. Political Science is part of the wider discipline of social science which contributes to the knowledge and understanding of humans and their environment. It lays special emphasis in the analysis of power, influence and authority in society. The study of political science introduces students to various aspects of government, political parties, international relations, comparative government, jurisprudence, and political philosophy. The Saint Mary's program allows students to explore a variety of problems facing all levels of Canadian and foreign governments. Political science students can choose to concentrate on Canadian politics and government, Canadian and American relations, comparative politics, international politics or political thought.

The Political Science Department at Saint Mary's concentrates in the areas of Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, and International Relations. Students have been successful in pursuing graduate work in political science at major graduate schools in Canada, the United States and Britain. The Department has been particularly successful in sending people on to Masters of Public Administration programs and to law schools, such as Dalhousie, Osgoode, and Oxford.



Members of the Political Science Department, L to R: (standing) Dr. Guy Chauvin, Dr. Donald Naulls, Dr. Leonard Preyra and Dr. Margaret Royal; (seated) Mike Farrell and Kathy Smith (student representatives), Kathy Lane, Dr. Edward McBride, and Dr. Ron Landes.

Officials' Views of Their Roles and Careers," both by Colin Campbell and Donald Naulls. Also by Colin Campbell and Donald Naulls are "Social-Science Training as Related to the Policy Roles of US Career Officials and Appointees: The Decline of Analysis," and "Policy Makers and Facilitators: The Boundaries Between Two Bureaucratic Roles".

Professor Edward McBride

In recent years, Professor McBride's research has centred around the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Supreme Court of Canada decision-making, and the impact on the Canadian Constitution of individual Supreme Court Justices. This research has resulted in two books. The first, published in 1986, which Professor McBride co-edited with three Dalhousie Law School professors (Christine Boyle, Wayne MacKay, and John Yogis), is entitled *Charterwatch: Reflections on Equality*. The second, which he co-authored with Dawn Russell of

the Dalhousie Law faculty and Randall Balcome, who has taught at both Dalhousie Law School and Saint Mary's University, is entitled *Supreme Court of Canada Decision-Making: The Benchmarks of Rand, Kerwin, and Martland*. It will be printed as part of a set of works on the Supreme Court of Canada.

With two books on the Supreme Court of Canada to his credit in the last three-and-a-half years, Professor McBride has turned his attention to the Nova Scotia judiciary. Constitutional issues arising in the courts of Nova Scotia form the main interest of this inquiry, with emphasis on litigation involving Dr. Henry Morgentaler

Dr. Margaret Royal

Dr. Royal is engaged in two primary areas of research. The first deals with an analysis of the dispute settlement mechanism in the Canada-U.S. free trade agreement. Of particular interest is the impact the mechanism will have on the Canada-U.S. relationship. In her work, she argues that the mechanism represents an effort to institutionalize the "special relationship", that is, to take the conduct of the relationship beyond the rhetoric of friendly relations and replace it with a codified and written set of guidelines. In the long term, this change could prove significant not just for the bilateral trade relationship but for broader conduct of Canada-U.S. relations.

A second project involves an examination of the role of women and women's groups in the public policy process in Canada, especially as it pertains to policy issues designed to address gender inequality. She is attempting to evaluate and explain not only how so called "women's issues" come to be part of the policy agenda but also how they are dealt with in the policy process. She will examine a variety of case studies, including day care policy and pay equity legislation.

Dr. Leonard Preyra

Dr. Preyra completed his PhD dissertation in March. In it he analyzed Canadian parliamentary debates over immigration, trade, labour and defence policy, and concluded that "where political parties stand on these issues depends on where they sit" at any given time. The ideology of the party in government, he concluded, regardless of party label, is "system maintaining", and the ideology of the party in official opposition is "system reforming".

How do political parties come to adjust to or acquire these distinctive patterns of behaviour? Dr. Preyra

See page 10

Political Science at SMU

From page 9

believes these two ideologies emerge in the struggle between governments, which seek to maintain their privileged position, and official oppositions, which wish to change their powerless situation. Dr. Preyra is now attempting to construct a theory of how certain organizational, contextual, and other elements of the political game provide incentives and/or benefits for some kinds of action and disincentives and/or costs for others and shape, constrain or encourage the behaviour of governing and opposing parties.

Dr. Guy Chauvin

In recent years Dr. Chauvin has done research into university financing, student fees and various aspects of university collective bargaining which has been incorporated into a variety of NSCUFA briefs. As to future projects, he has done considerable research on an Irish politician of World War I vintage which may someday see the light in some Irish Studies journal.

Dr. Randall Balcome

Dr. Balcome's most recent publication, *Benchmarks*, is an analysis of the decisions of three Supreme Court of Canada Judges - Ivan Rand, Patrick Kerwin and Ronald Martland. The book, co-authored with Professor Edward McBride and Professor Dawn Russell of Dalhousie Law School, seeks to uncover the values used by judges in resolving legal disputes. Since the proclamation of the Charter of Rights in Canada in 1982, there has been a renewed interest in research on how judges make decisions. This is because the Charter has given judges greater power in our political system, and a greater ability to influence a wide range of important political and social issues.

Dr. Balcome's current research relates to an on-going philosophical battle between "individualism" and "communitarianism". This research will take the form of a book review of *Law and the Community: the End of Individualism?* edited by Allan Hutchinson and Leslie Green and published by Carswell.

Professor Camille Habib

Professor Habib is working on a general review of the theoretical literature on military-political decision-making processes. He is examining the success of the Israeli military, political expectations, and Lebanese internal relations. The study examines the Israeli decision-making process, the military success of Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, and the nation's failure to achieve its political objectives at this time. The result is a case study of the problems of making a foreign policy which is subject to military means to achieve political gains, in areas as nebulous and ambiguous as the Middle East. He hopes to complete this thesis by the end of September, 1990.

RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE

Intense joy... indescribable feeling of knowledge and understanding

by Melanie Nolan

"Religious experiences are powerful emotional feelings, says ethologist Dr. James Darley. These feelings are as real as happiness, anger or grief. The most remarkable aspect of the "religious experience" is the intensity of the feeling. In a Friday Forum presentation on March 9, Dr. Darley, who teaches in the Psychology Department, presented some theories of the origins of religious behaviour and human values. He believes many aspects of religious behaviour arise from within the human species - from our brains and from our genes.

Dr. Darley became interested in religious experiences about 10 years ago. He had been suffering from intense stress and ulcers for quite some time, when a friend suggested he learn transcendental meditation to try to alleviate the problem. He recounts that when he began repeating the mantra, a one-word Sanskrit prayer, he was overwhelmed with intense joy coupled with an indescribable feeling of knowledge and understanding. The experience made such a profound impression on him, he decided to learn more about these types of experiences.

During his investigation, Dr. Darley discovered The Alistair Hardy Research Centre at Oxford, which had documented over 5,000 cases of religious experiences. Results of

Gallup Polls show 33 percent of adult Britons and 36 percent of adult Americans reported such experiences, while personal interviews by D. Hay in Britain reveal levels exceeding 60 percent. These experiences, then, are more common than one might suppose. Dr. Darley believes an experience this common probably has a biological or genetic basis.

Dr. Darley points out that many of the religious experiences documented resembled behaviour arising from the deprivation of basic needs. He uses food as an example. People who have been deprived of food report seeing significantly more food items when shown slides of smudges, than people who have not been food-deprived. And, food often tastes better than ever before to the dieter.

Dr. Darley extends the deprivation theory to cover religious experiences. "Many of the people who reported the joy of the religious experience had gone through periods of extreme grief, the death of loved ones, or protracted periods of depression. They were deprived of happiness, and when the religious experience came, it was like food to a starving person."

Dr. Darley says there is a physiological basis to the experience. Hormones called endorphins build up in centres of the brain, and are prevented from being released by deprivation. If the deprivation is satisfied, however, the centres release endorphins into the bloodstream. This surge of endorphins produces the state of euphoria commonly known as a religious experience. If these experiences are enhanced by the brain's response to deprivation or intense stress, it would account for the success of fire and brimstone preaching, self flagellation and fasting in producing religious experiences.

Dr. Darley also advanced an interesting theory about the origin and nature of human values - namely, that they evolved and reside in our genetic make up. To illustrate his theory, he points to the example of wolves.

"Wolves exhibit some distinct behaviours that parallel human values," he says. "If two wolves are fighting, and one lies on the ground and displays its throat, the other will not attack. Second, wolves and many other species are monogamous for life. Third, when they go off to mate, they establish territories for themselves, again like many other species, and do not disturb their neighbours' territories."

by Melanie Nolan

If someone were to ask you what the second most plentiful naturally occurring polymer on earth is, chances are you'd guess incorrectly. In fact, the answer is chitin, a substance found in the shells of lobsters, shrimp and crabs, and less appealing creatures like grasshoppers, june bugs, cockroaches and scorpions. (Just for interest's sake, the most plentiful is cellulose, the material that makes up the cell walls of plants.) Strange as it may seem, scientists are exploring uses for chitin as diverse as wound dressings, sonar fluid and beauty cream.

Chemistry professor Clive Elson is one of those scientists

According to Dr. Darley, these behaviours can be compared to three of the Ten Commandments: Thou shalt not kill; Thou shalt not commit adultery, and Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house nor anything that is thy neighbour's.

"Like animals," explains Darley, "humans developed values before they had language with which to express them, because those values made them more successful as a species." These values were passed from generation to generation, says Dr. Darley, adding they are difficult to maintain in our present environment. "We are no longer living within our evolutionary system of hunter-

gatherers."

When people ranged freely on the land, gathering berries and hunting animals, they did not collect possessions, and there was no reason not to share. "If you found a cow, there is no way you could eat it by yourself," says Dr. Darley. "Therefore, you would share it with others in your tribe, knowing that when they found food, they would reciprocate."

The problems began when people settled down, started collecting possessions and raising crops and herds. "All of a sudden, that's your cow, because you fed and raised it," he explains. "The vegetables you raised were your vegetables, and possessions could be accumulated as we no longer had to move from place to place." Modern urban society developed very rapidly - we went from being hunter-gatherers to sophisticated urbanites in less than two thousand years, and have not had time to adapt our genetic values to our new habitat.

"All major religions espouse the values of the hunter-gatherers," says Dr. Darley. "People seeking a closer relationship to God will give up their possessions, and live a contemplative rather than material life in which the major value is sharing. The people who exhibit selflessness, like Mother Theresa or Dr. Albert Schweitzer, receive the utmost admiration. The irony of these observations is the view of many Christians that evolutionary theory undermines, when it in fact underlies, Christianity.

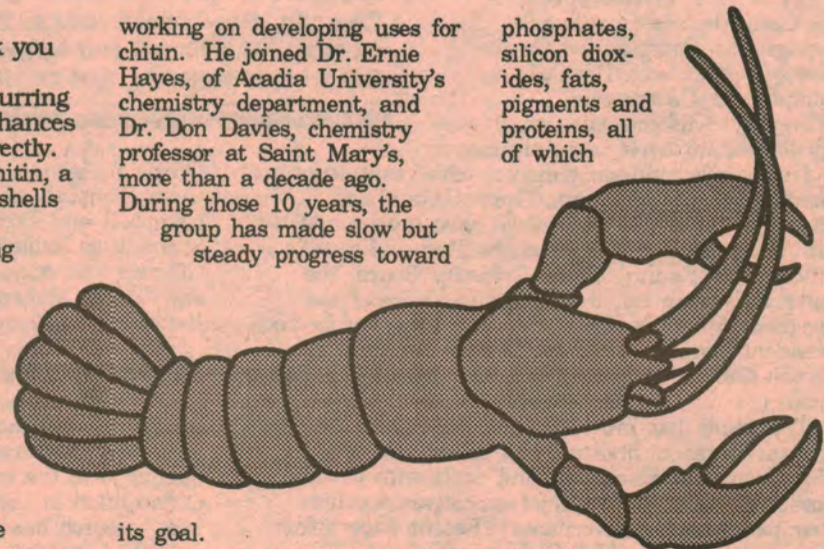


Dr. James Darley

CHITIN:

working on developing uses for chitin. He joined Dr. Ernie Hayes, of Acadia University's chemistry department, and Dr. Don Davies, chemistry professor at Saint Mary's, more than a decade ago. During those 10 years, the group has made slow but steady progress toward

phosphates, silicon dioxides, fats, pigments and proteins, all of which



its goal.

Working with chitin is a complicated process, says Dr. Elson. The waste shrimp shells from which they get chitin contain salts,

must be removed to render chitin. The chitin itself is insoluble, making it impossible to work

See page 11

Kids born early in the year have an advantage

Relative age effect...are we dooming our children?

by Melanie Nolan

At first glance, how kids do in school don't seem closely related. But according to Dean of Education Roger Barnsley, not only are they related, but one of the reasons for the success or failure of children in both hockey and school is the same...a phenomenon becoming known in education circles as 'relative age effect'.

Dr. Barnsley presented his research findings about relative age effect at the final Friday Forum on March 23.

The concept is straightforward, and seems obvious as soon as you really think about it. Relative age effect simply means that, in any given grade level, the age of the children varies by up to one year. The older children in that grade have a developmental advantage over the younger children...an advantage that influences their self-image and success for the rest of their lives.

Dr. Barnsley first discovered relative age effect in the context of hockey. "My wife and I were at a major junior league game," he recounts. "She was bored, and started studying the program. To her surprise, she noticed all the players were born in January, February or March."

Intrigued by this statistic, Dr. Barnsley started checking out National Hockey League team rosters. These showed the same trend. He collected more and more data about the birth months of hockey players in major and minor leagues in Canada and the United States. All the data showed most players in major league and higher-ranked minor-league teams had been born in the first few months of the year. This is significant in terms of

the cut-off date for getting into minor hockey - January 1. The kids born earlier in the year are older, bigger and stronger than the other kids on the team.

Firmly convinced of the reality of relative age effect, Dr. Barnsley began investigating its incidence in the education system.



Dr. Roger Barnsley

Dr. Barnsley draws a parallel between the cut-off dates for hockey, and the cut-off dates for entry into the school system. "Cut-off dates are based on the underlying assumption that the development over the course of one year will not affect a child's performance. But it does, and the child doesn't catch up over the longterm."

Also, like hockey, the school system streams children according to ability...or apparent ability. Just as there

are A, B and C teams, there are classes for bright, average, and learning disadvantaged students. But, according to Dr. Barnsley's data, the older kids in the age group are most likely to make the "A" team or the accelerated class, while the younger kids are more likely to end up on the "C" team, or get held back a grade.

"This has to do with making decisions about kids' abilities at a very young age," says Dr. Barnsley. "In hockey, the kids in the highest tier get better coaching, more ice time, and end up feeling more successful and are therefore more likely to continue in hockey. Conversely, the kids in the lowest tier are less likely to feel successful, and their participation rate will diminish."

Extrapolate this to education...Children are judged less bright than their peers in the same grade, when the only reason they are progressing more slowly is that they are younger. They are put in the 'slow kids' class', where no-one expects much from them. Meanwhile, the older, more developmentally advanced children are put into the 'bright kids' class', where they receive praise and are expected to do well. Studies show the effect reverberates right through to university, and potentially into career and life success. "It's the Pygmalion effect," he says. "People live up to the expectations set up for them. It becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy."

The streaming process comes close to dooming certain groups of children on the basis of which month of they year they were born. One attendee at the Friday Forum ventured to coin the term "monthism" as

a way of describing this sort of age discrimination.

"The current system seeks to homogenize kids, because they are easier to deal with that way. There can be low tolerance among some teachers for children who are different," Dr. Barnsley says.

Pessimistic as it may seem, there are no easy ways to neutralize relative age effect in the school system. Options include having several entry points throughout the year, reducing the difference in relative age of the students in the groups and creating a

timetabling nightmare. Dr. Barnsley suggested that it might be interesting to return to a one-room "open" classroom which had a greater tolerance for differences amongst students. He also thinks we should consider doing away with formal grading systems at the early ages.

In Dr. Barnsley's opinion, this would be the way to go. "But it doesn't fit nicely," he explains. "That's why it's not being done. But if it was, I think we'd see a lot more success among our young people."

Summer Scholars named



Undergraduate science students at Saint Mary's have the chance to work on research during the summer, thanks to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and Saint Mary's Undergraduate Student Research Awards. This year's winners are (l to r): back, Dawn Murden (biology), Jaime Martell (chemistry), Charles Kerton (astronomy); middle, Shannon Fitzpatrick (math), Julie Selway (geology), Sean Christie (chemistry); front, David Pass (geology), Keri McAadoo (chemistry) and Claire Brown (biology). Missing: Craig Smith (chemistry), Joanne LaLonde (astronomy).

From beetle juice to beauty cream

From page 10

with. So, it is treated with a strong base to get a substance called 'chitosan', which is soluble in weak acids. Dr. Elson and his team have developed a further treatment with salts, which makes the chitosan water-soluble and very easy to manipulate.

According to Dr. Elson, the secret of chitin is that it is a natural substance with properties similar to plant and animal tissues. The potential medical applications are endless, particularly since chitin is hypo-allergenic and exhibits an anti-microbial action. It could be used as a wound-healing dressing or artificial skin. Or, slow-release antibiotics could be incorporated into it to prevent infection or speed up recovery from major surgery.

The Japanese are already

using chitin in more everyday ways. For instance, some Japanese companies are marketing it in anti-aging creams, and others are adding it to cereal. "Chitin is an excellent source of fibre, since it doesn't break down in the gut of humans," explains Dr. Elson. "Another interesting property of chitin is that it binds cholesterol in the gut, and may actually have a negative caloric value."

Although these and other applications of chitin are on the leading edge, they may not become reality for quite some time. "We are having difficulties getting Health and Welfare and Food and Drug Administration approvals," Dr. Elson says. "We did one round of toxicology tests, which was very expensive, and we will have to do more before we can

get approval for human uses."

"One reason why it's moving slowly is that no companies are pushing for the approvals, since chitin can't be patented. It's a naturally occurring product, and it's been known for donkey's years."

While they proceed with medical applications of chitin, Dr. Elson and his colleagues are looking closely at other areas as well. "We have developed a product called Nutri-Save®," he says. "It allows us to hold Golden Delicious and Northern Spy apples in normal refrigeration for 10 months...just as long as in controlled atmosphere storage."

They have successfully tested the preservative value of Nutri-Save® in Canada, Australia, the United States

and Costa Rica. Although they hold a patent on Nutri-Save® in several countries, it will be four years before their application is processed in Canada.

If Nutri-Save® is ever adopted, it could save producers a lot of money. "Controlled atmosphere storage is very expensive to maintain," explains Dr. Elson, "because it requires that the fruit or vegetables be stored in an atmosphere that is composed of almost 100 percent nitrogen."

The Nutri-Save®, which is used as a coating, prevents the fruit or vegetable from releasing carbon dioxide and absorbing oxygen, causing its metabolism to shut down and staving off the rotting process.

"Right now we're adding to the body of knowledge about

chitin, in hopes of speeding up approvals," says Dr. Elson.

"We are in the process of trying to establish a small plant to produce high-grade chitosan in the Dartmouth area, with assistance from ACOA (Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency). Other organizations, local and national, are helping Dr. Elson and his colleagues. Agriculture Canada, Sarsfield Foods, Blueberry Acres, and the National Research Council are among those who have pledged to support the research.

"It would be very nice if we could take something developed in the Maritimes and make a success of it," Dr. Elson says. "But funding is very hard to get. It's a hard sell, because there is no existing market. Yet.

People

Starts own business at home

Innovations Project helps disabled man

Chemistry

Dr. John C. Young has recently been awarded grants under the Energy Mines and Resources Research Agreements Program and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Research Partnership Program to support his continuing work on hydraulic drag reducing agents.

Management

Dr. Jamal Badawi was the guest speaker at the Centre for Islamic Studies at Oxford University, England during the winter break. He presented three seminars on Qur'anic Studies. In March Dr. Badawi was the guest of the Visiting Scholars Committee at California State University at Sacramento, California. He delivered a public lecture and was also invited by several faculty members to address their classes.

Public Affairs

Suellen Murray, who worked in the Public Affairs Department during the 1986/87 academic year, has just graduated from Dalhousie Law School. With two other law students she won the Gale Cup moot competition at Osgoode Hall in Toronto. In moot court competition, law students argue a hypothetical case. The Gale Cup is the highest award for moot court in Canada.

Education

Kenneth Langille, BA ('77), MA(Ed) ('87), who teaches at Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School, recently received a Marshall McLuhan Distinguished Teacher Award. The awards, which are presented by the Marshall McLuhan Center for Global Communications, aim to enhance worldwide communications to meet the educational, technological, social and cultural needs of people around the globe.

Economics

Dr. Paul Bowles presented papers on his research on China at the World Conference on Ethics and Technology held at the University of Guelph in October 1989, and at the Department of Economics, Dalhousie University, in January 1990. He also presented, (with F. MacPhail), a paper on Indonesia at the Canadian Conference on South East Asia Studies held at the University of British Columbia in November 1989.

by Melanie Nolan

Jack Preyde didn't touch a computer until he was 45 years-old. Now, at 53, he runs a computer programming, tutoring, income tax preparation and Bedford accounting business out of his home in Bedford. But he might not have touched a computer to this day if had he not been stricken nine years ago with a rare incurable disease called *syringo nyelia*.

"I know of only three other cases between here and Montreal," says Preyde of the disease that has eaten away at the core of his spinal cord, leaving a cavity which fills with fluid, putting excruciating pressure on his nerve endings.

"It's a degenerative disease," he explains. "It makes my muscles atrophy. I can't hold myself upright, so I wear a body brace and neck brace. They enable me to move around, but also restrain me and prevent me from hurting myself." He adds, ruefully, "I forget sometimes that I can't do things."

Although he was diagnosed in 1981, he says it took him three years to get over a deep depression, and accept and start dealing with



Jack Preyde

the disease. Eventually he picked himself up, and started looking for things to do. He took a tax preparation course in 1985, and aced a one-and-a-half year diploma course in systems analysis and computer programming at the Atlantic Computer Institute the following year.

Before he became physically debilitated by *syringo nyelia*, Preyde had

Katyn Forest massacre

From page 4

of an army of Polish servicemen from Russian prisons, Polish authorities had become aware that vast numbers of officers were missing. Of the 12,000 known to have been taken prisoner, only a few hundred had been found alive.

Although Swianiewicz recounted his train ride to Katyn Forest, it was not until 1943 that the mystery was explained.

In that year, retreating Germans announced by radio they had unearthed the mass graves of Polish officers shot to death and buried some miles west of Smolensk. Each had been shot in the back of the head with a revolver placed against the skull.

About 4,000 bodies mounded in those graves in Karyn Forest, but the Germans, knowing that 12,000 Poles remained unaccounted for, inflated the figure and claimed that all of the missing officers were buried there.

The Soviets agreed that 12,000 Poles were buried within the forest, but insisted that they had been executed by the Nazis, who, during the 1941 fall offensive, captured a Russian prison camp holding the Polish officers.

An international medical commission and the Polish underground also examined the site, but concluded that only the 4,000 prisoners from Kozielsk camp were buried there.

Eight thousand other Polish officers have never been found. Somewhere in the endless land of Mother Russia, Swianiewicz is certain, those others of his comrades lie secretly buried, mass murdered by their Soviet captors.

run his own specialty promotional items business. "I'm full of the entrepreneurial spirit," says Preyde, who has worked in everything from magazine to insurance sales. But he knew he couldn't continue with his business, which required a fair amount of travelling. Now only painfully mobile, but with some computer expertise, he began to look for work.

"Sure, I could have just taken my disability pension, (he is classified as totally disabled) and done nothing but read all day. It would be a hell of a lot easier. But what would I achieve?" he asks. Even though he knew he would risk losing his pension by working, he felt he had to take the chance. He appealed to affirmative action programs in all three levels of government to help him find a job, with little or no results.

He did eventually land a six-month term with the Department of Municipal Affairs, under a special program for disabled persons. "The pay was lousy - \$100 a week," says Preyde. "The work I was doing on their computer system was worth \$40,000. But at least it helped restore my confidence." Later he got himself another term position as a systems analyst. By this time he was in so much pain and so exhausted by the travel to and from work, he resolved not to work outside his home once his term was up. What he needed was someone to sponsor him to buy the equipment to set up his own computer business.

Prior to making this decision, Preyde had seen an ad in the newspaper about the Innovations Project

(Making the Employment Connection), a three-year pilot project designed to assist people with disabilities find meaningful, intellectually stimulating employment. The program, sponsored by Employment and Immigration Canada, was spearheaded by the Atlantic Centre of Support for Disabled Students at Saint Mary's University.

"I called them with the idea maybe I could help them. I didn't think they could do anything for me," says Preyde. Yet, in February 1989, he received a call from Christina Gaull, Vocational Rehabilitation Counsellor for the Innovations Project. "They tried to find outside work for me," Preyde says. "I tried to convince them what I really needed was a computer so I could work from my home." Still, he was not particularly optimistic the project could help him, since it is not set up to provide financial assistance. To his surprise, and joy, Christina came back to him to say that if he put together a proposal, and secured some funding from other sources, Innovations would lend him the difference.

Filled with new hope, he wrote his sister, a nun in his native Holland, and asked her to pray for him. She called back to say she could offer him more than prayers - she had shown his letter to the congregation and superiors of her order, who decided to send him \$3,000. He contacted Christina immediately, and within a week received a letter confirming Innovations would supply the balance. His computer arrived on November 22, 1989.

"I had to force a response from every other organization except Innovations," says Preyde. "They took the initiative to contact me, and the trouble to consider my needs."

ACS students say 'thanks'



The Atlantic Canada Studies Association presents Alumni Officer Heather Brown with an ACS sweatshirt as a token of appreciation for all her help. L to R: Denise Currie, Catherine Geddes, Heather Brown, Brenda Sanderson, Ann Bailey, Peter Morrison (President), Sherry Pictou, Virginia MacLellan and Tony Pitt.

Senate elections

Dr. Janet Baker (English), Dr. Jaroslav Dostal (Geology), Dr. Jack Ginsburg (Chemistry), Dr. Grace Pretty (Psychology) and Dr. Peter Ricketts (Geography) were elected to Senate for a three-year term during elections held Friday 23 March. Dr. Peter March (Philosophy) was elected for a two-year term, and Dr. David Turner was elected for a one-year term.

The Senate is the academic governing body of the University.