MAROON & WHITE

For Alumni and Friends of Saint Mary's University

Fall 2018

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SMU'S CO-ED ANNIVERSARY - 50 YEARS!

A HOCKEY FIRST FOR WOMEN

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MAROON&WHITE Fall 2018

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

This is my last letter to you as President of the Saint Mary's Alumni Association. I'm not sure where those two years have gone, but it was a busy and rewarding experience to serve the loyal alumni of Saint Mary's. Thank you for the honour.

In this issue, you will be introduced to alumni from all over, accomplishing amazing things. From former athletes who have gone on to successful careers in broadcasting in Toronto to the youngest ever mayor in the Miramachi region of New Brunswick.

We tell you these stories to demonstrate the diversity of opportunities that a Saint Mary's education can offer and to highlight and celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates. We know there are so many other stories out there, and we encourage you to let us know about them, so we can celebrate you.

Another exciting story is the new arena being built on campus. While it was sad to see the demolition of the old Alumni Arena, we are so pleased to be able to be in a position financially to finally bring our men's varsity hockey team back to campus and provide upgraded facilities for both men's and women's hockey, as well as provide a community recreation space in downtown Halifax.

I would like to close by saying thank you to all of the Alumni Council volunteers who assist the university as ambassadors and advisors, in particular to my executive team. I'd also like to wish our new incoming president, Scott McElman, the best of luck in the next couple of years as I transition to Past-President.

I would also like to give a very special thank you to Past-President Mary Evelyn Ternan, who will step off Council and take a break from all things Saint Mary's related (although I think we'll still see her around!). Thank you for your commitment to your alma mater. ✧

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

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Crisp autumn air signals the start of a new academic year. During Welcome Weeks, this year's 1600 incoming students – and future alumni – were welcomed into our community and introduced to both academic opportunities and the many support systems on campus.

The Santamarian Ceremony, held in September, reinforces the values of Saint Mary's: academic excellence, our intentional approach to intercultural learning and a respectful campus, our encouragement of resilience, community engagement, and the search for ethical wisdom. These values are seen on a daily basis but also at signature events such as Homecoming. I was delighted to see so many of you attending – you are an active demonstration of the depth and breadth of the Santamarian community.

We also celebrated a special philanthropic investment at the Santamarian Ceremony with the announcement of a $1.2 million gift from the Estate of Patrick Power, after whom our library is named. On hand for the announcement were estate trustees and valued members of the Saint Mary's family: Arthur Donahoe (Class of '59, LLD'08); Ellen Feehan (Class of '75 and '78); and Sheila Donahoe (Associate Alumnae Award recipient '18). This gift brings the Estate's investment in Saint Mary's students to more than $4 million, an incredible legacy for which we are immensely grateful.

I am very proud to share with you Saint Mary's success in attracting experienced and energetic leaders who share our commitment to excellence and innovation. We recently welcomed Dr. Harjeet Bhabra as the new Dean of the Sobey School of Business, Suzanne van den Hoogen BA'91 as University Librarian, Jillian Gibson as Director of Philanthropy, and Dennis Gillis MBA'09 as Director of Facilities Management.

Community is also a key theme of the Dauphinee Centre, our new arena. The values of community engagement are seen in the generosity and vision of the Bob Dauphinee Estate and donors Glen and Nancy Holmes. The centre will make a significant contribution not only to varsity athletics but to the wellness of our entire community, with 50% of its usage capacity dedicated to community groups.

Thank you for all you do to advance the values of Saint Mary's University; you are our strongest ambassadors. There are exciting days ahead, and I look forward to sharing even more examples of our leadership in research and teaching, entrepreneurship, global connectedness, and community engagement. Age quod agis. ✧

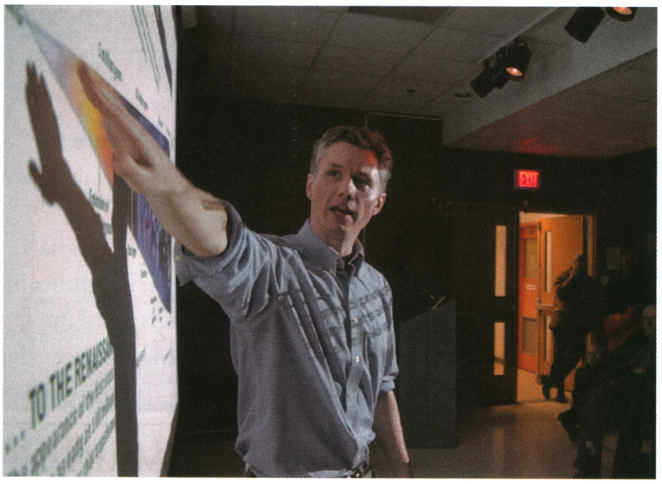
Robert Summerby-Murray
President and Vice-Chancellor, Saint Mary's University

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING HERE

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

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SAINT MARY'S BIOLOGISTS

Two Saint Mary's biologists have received funding to investigate how environmental variation influences fish populations in Atlantic Canada. This research should help predict how fish will fare with continued changes in climate. Drs. Laura Weir and Anne Dalziel are using their $200,000 John R. Evans Leaders Fund award from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) to develop a Fish Behaviour and Physiology (FiBP) Lab at Saint Mary's University.

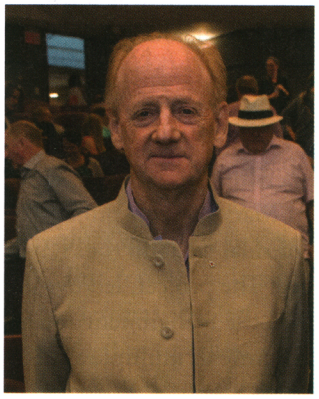


SMU ASTRONOMER WINS ASTRONOMY AWARD

"I simply love talking with people about science," says Dr. Rob Thacker, Director of the Science Outreach Centre. An internationally recognized researcher, who is also an Astronomy and Physics professor, Dr. Thacker received the Canadian Astronomical Society's 2018 Qilak Award in recognition of his outstanding outreach work. He shares his knowledge via dozens of public lectures and weekly interviews on "Sounds of Science" (CBC NS), "Ottawa Today" (1310 News), and "Science Ship" on Rogers radio stations across the country.

SAINT MARY'S PROFESSOR EARNS ESTEEMED MEDAL

Subatomic physicist, Dr. Rituparna Kanungo, leads cutting-edge research on understanding the mysteries of existence. Where do we come from? What are we, and most visible matter in our universe, made of? To answer these questions, Kanungo examines the core of all things, the nucleus. By using very precise methods of generating reactions, she can closely examine rare isotopes in our universe to unlock their secrets and gain insight on nature's strong nuclear force. Her outstanding work garnered the Canadian Association of Physicists-TRIUMF Vogt Medal in 2018.



AN EVENING WITH JOHN RALSTON SAUL

John Ralston Saul shared his insights into immigration and Atlantic Canada at Saint Mary's University this past summer. Ralston Saul praised the centuries-long Canadian approach

to welcoming newcomers, something he said is unique to this country and learned from Indigenous peoples. Ralston Saul noted that Canada now stands out among westernized nations for its pro-immigration policies and practices including government programming and citizen volunteers.

SAINT MARY'S HOSTS GROUND-BREAKING CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

More than 200 scholars, corrections workers, and social-justice experts from Canada and beyond came together for a fruitful exchange of ideas on harm reduction in the criminal justice system at Saint Mary's this past summer. This year marked the first in which the conference will begin visiting communities across Canada, and also the first in which it substantially moves to holistically addressing issues around crime and justice.

FIRST GRADUATES FROM UNIQUE, INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

This past summer, the first cohort of a unique program based on an international partnership between Saint Mary's University and Beijing Normal University-Zhuhai (BNUZ) walked across the stage to receive their degrees in China. The business students are the first to graduate from a program offered jointly by BNUZ and Saint Mary's University. The successful partnership between the two institutions dates back to 2002. Since then, hundreds of BNUZ and Saint Mary's students have benefitted from unique shared programs and international education opportunities.

CREATING COASTAL HABITAT

As a result of a $1.8 million partnership between the Government of Canada and Saint Mary's, a new project seeks to restore over 75 hectares of tidal wetland (i.e., salt marsh) habitat in our province. The project, led by Dr. Danika van Proosdij, will guide the realignment and decommissioning of dyke infrastructure at multiple sites in the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia.

SMU DOCTORAL STUDENT WINS IN NATIONAL POLICY CHALLENGE

Chris Walker, doctoral candidate in the International Development Studies Department at Saint Mary's University, is one of 10 winners of a national foreign policy challenge. The Global Affairs Canada / SSHRC 2018 International Policy Ideas Challenge invites Canadian graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and researchers to propose solutions to emerging international policy challenges faced by Canada. Chris proposed a policy brief that will analyze the foreign policy implications of using trilateral partnerships through South-South Cooperation (as opposed to the traditional bilateral Northern-to-Southern countries aid model) as a potential approach to international development.

MI'KMAQ GRAND COUNCIL FLAG PERMANENTLY INSTALLED AT SAINT MARY'S

The Mi'kmaq Grand Council flag now has a permanent home on the Saint Mary's campus, alongside the Canadian and provincial flags that fly in front of the McNally Building. "To see our flag side-by-side with the Canadian and Nova Scotian flags, nation to nation, is very significant to us," said Grand Chief Ron Knockwood, District Chief of the Mi'kmaq Grand Council, Sipekne'katik District. "It acknowledges our nation and our presence."

TOP 50 CEOs WITHIN SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

The innovation, drive, and business leadership of several of our alumni were recently recognized by Atlantic Business Magazine. The following people received a Top 50 CEO Award: Joyce Carter, BComm'84; Stuart MacLean, EMBA'97; Darren Nantes, BComm'89; Carl Sparkes, MBA'87; and Saint Mary's University President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray.

INUIT CULTURAL REPATRIATION AWARD FOR SAINT MARY'S RESEARCHER

Saint Mary's University researcher Dr. Val Marie Johnson's collaborative work to repatriate copies of Inuit cultural and historical materials has being recognized with the 2018 Inuit Cultural Repatriation Award. The award, given by the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, recognizes individuals and organizations that have taken steps to repatriate Inuit intellectual or cultural property or other items that hold significance for their people. Dr. Johnson, along with The Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre and the Anglican Church General Synod Archives, engaged in the collaborative work of repatriating copies of archival materials from St. John's Eskimo Residential School at Shingle Point, Yukon.

SQUARE ROOTS FOOD BUNDLE PROGRAM PARTNERS WITH HELLMANN'S

The award-winning Square Roots food-bundle program is partnering with Hellmann's to help combat food insecurity across Nova Scotia. "For two years in a row, the Square Roots bundle program has won the Hellmann's Food Security Challenge, which opened the door to this partnership," said Becca Watts, Square Roots bundle program manager. "We are proud to announce that all future bundles will feature a recipe book and coupon for a free Hellmann's product. We want to thank Hellmann's for their support, as we fight food insecurity in Nova Scotia."

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE RELAUNCHES

A creative campaign featuring the business success of 12 alumni (such as Janet Chiang, BComm'16) and a venture showcase with 200 guests helped re-launch the Business Development Centre as the Saint Mary's University Entrepreneurship Centre last April. The new centre heralds an enhanced focus on entrepreneurial leadership. "We help thousands of businesses and graduates," says Michael Sanderson, Acting Director. "We're excited to mentor the next generation of innovators." Visit smu.ca/disruptors to learn more.

SAINT MARY'S VENTURE GRADE FUND INVESTS IN TRIP NINJA

Saint Mary's University's Venture Grade Fund, a student-raised and led venture capital fund, is making its first investment – $15,000 to Trip Ninja, an innovative travel start-up. Trip Ninja is a travel-planning software for use by online travel retailers such as Expedia or Priceline. This multi-destination platform finds the best way to book a trip, whether travellers are flexible in their route or if they need to visit destinations in a particular order. ✧

Paul Bromby, right, with Lloyd Thomas after winning the National Championship in 1999.

OPENING DOORS *AND MAKING* CONNECTIONS

Signa Butler and Paul Bromby on how sport shaped their lives and careers

BY ERIN ELAINE CASEY

When Signa Butler BA'96 and Paul Bromby BA'99 meet in the halls of the Canadian Broadcasting Centre in Toronto, it's like a family reunion.

"Whenever we run into each other in our building, it's a huge smile, a big hug, some kind of dance move or something," laughs Signa. "There's a certain unspoken understanding east coasters have."

CBC News Network sports host, Signa Butler, and Rogers Sportsnet and Hockey Night in Canada producer, Paul Bromby, have more in common than careers in sports broadcasting. Both were Saint Mary's Huskies varsity athletes, Signa in soccer and Paul in basketball.

An accomplished all-around athlete, Signa was an Academic All-Canadian, Atlantic University Sport (AUS) Conference Player of the Year, and was nominated for the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Player of the Year. A lifelong basketball player, Paul was team co-captain in 1999, when Saint Mary's beat the University of Alberta Golden Bears to win the CIAU (Canadian Interuniversity Athletics Union, now known as U SPORTS) title, SMU's fourth national basketball crown.

Today, as a host and a play-by-play announcer, Signa maintains a hectic schedule. "I wake up at an hour when I used to come home in university," she says, "3:30 in the morning! I make sure I know what happened the night before in sports. I've watched a full game and read everything." Then she "shrinks it all down" to two or three minutes to share it with viewers.

Last year, Signa started doing play-by-play for a variety of sports as part of the CBC Olympic broadcast team. "There are not a lot of women who do play-by-play in Canada. I'm very fortunate to be doing what I love to do," she says, adding that this has been a dream since high school. "I hope I can be a role model to others, both men and women. The hard work behind what you do stands up no matter what, no matter who you are."

Paul produces studio segments for Sportsnet's Hockey Central and Hockey Night in Canada. "My job is to figure out what the stories are throughout the game and how to tell

them. I'm the TV person, the panellists and hosts are the hockey experts, and we work to make it mesh," he explains. "You have to manage and be a leader in the control room, make sure everyone's doing what they need to do. It's the closest you're going to get to playing a game—it's very intense and teamwork is critical."

How did Paul end up producing for Canada's most beloved sports broadcast? It's kind of a funny story. In 2000, at a loose end in his career, the self-described 'sports junky' picked up the phone and made a call that would change his life. "The receptionist at Sportsnet put me through to producer Stuart Aker. He gave me a 15-minute sports quiz and hired me as an entry level broadcast associate."

Signa Butler, middle, in a 1996 game, Huskies vs. UPEI
Photo: The Journal.

Paul "knew nothing about TV," so he went in on his days off, followed producers around, and sat in master control. His initiative paid off and he advanced quickly. "That would never happen now," he laughs, "but back then I just thought I'm gonna call and see what happens."

Saint Mary's gave Signa her start in media. "That was my first opening into journalism. I started writing for the student newspaper (The Journal) in my second year, and then I became the editor in my fifth year." This, along with doing promotion for the Athletic Department, helped her build a portfolio that got her into journalism school at Ryerson.

"Sport gives you so many connections and opens so many doors for you, and it can help you feel at home," says Signa, who grew up in Halifax's west end and always felt an allegiance to SMU because her father Richard and her mother Chris were both alumni, and the family went to all the SMU games together. "I felt like I was a member of the Huskies before I put on a uniform myself."

When it came time to play herself, Signa says that she loved being a student athlete. "It helped me set goals for myself. It helped me with my mental strength. And I loved representing a university that I've cared incredibly about since I was a kid. It was a big privilege, and it still is."

Paul grew up in the north end of Halifax playing for Canadian Martyrs Mini-Basketball. "I'd take the 9 bus down to the south end, and a guy named David Macintosh was my coach and he played at SMU. We used to play in the old McNally Building. I always envisioned playing for SMU."

Basketball was more than just a hobby for Paul. His mom suffered from bipolar disorder and spent time hospitalized for mental illness. "It was something I was embarrassed about and ashamed of, but I'm now a very vocal advocate for mental health. For me, as a child, basketball was an escape."

Saint Mary's basketball gave Paul a sense of stability. "It was home, and it just felt right. It was a safe space when I was a kid. My teammates became my brothers, and it gave me the family and safety and comfort I was looking for." Academics gave him the critical thinking and writing skills essential to his career in broadcasting.

When he's not at work, Paul loves spending time with his four-year-old son Austin and coaching kids' basketball every summer at New Horizon Basketball Academy in Markham and Brooklin, Ontario. Signa enjoys hanging out in her cozy Toronto neighbourhood with her husband Iain and twin three-year-old boys, Thomas and Duncan. She has also emceed a number of events at Saint Mary's over the years, including the re-launch of the Entrepreneurship Centre and the One World Alumni Awards Gala, and stays engaged with the soccer team.

Paul and Signa's love for Saint Mary's is equalled by their admiration for each other. "I love running into Paul, and I love how far he's come in his career," says Signa. "The media industry can be really tough, and Paul hasn't really changed since our days at university. He's one of the good guys."

"Signa was always an awesome athlete with a great sense of humour, and it's so good to see her succeeding in the same industry as I am," adds Paul. "It makes me proud to see how well she's doing." ✧

Celebrating 50 Years OF CO-EDUCATION

BY RENÉE HARTLEIB

It was September of 1968, and Frances Murdock (nee Kelly) was just about to turn seventeen. She was enrolled at Mount St. Vincent University and discovered that the textbooks for her Fall term courses were in short supply. She and a few friends set off for the Saint Mary's Bookstore to see if the missing titles were available there.

"Little did we know, SMU had just announced it was going co-ed," says Frances. "When we got there, some of the male students started pointing and shouting, 'There are the new girls!', and even though we weren't there to enrol, we got swept up in the excitement."

Frances and her friends waltzed over to the Admissions Office and left with white admission forms fluttering in the breeze. Just in time for their pic to be snapped by a Halifax MailStar reporter. *Here Come the Girls* was the headline on the front page of the newspaper the next morning. Frances and her friends were proclaimed as the first women to register at Saint Mary's.

"When I got home, I had to convince my parents this was a sensible idea, and I had to do it before they saw the newspaper!" Frances succeeded and became one of only 50 full-time female students to register in that first year. She went on to earn her BA and her MEd and then taught school for 40 years in Halifax.

HERE COME THE GIRLS! — No time was wasted yesterday by Frances Kelly, Mary McGuigar, Judi McElmon and Charlye Claiborne, who on hearing that St. Mary's University has become co-educational, rushed to the admission clerk and picked up their registration slips to put an end to the 127 year old traditional all-male institute. (Wamboldt-Waterfield)

It was a time of immense change in the world and also a rich period in the history of Saint Mary's. The Vietnam War was at its peak, and classes were peppered with draft dodgers. There were regular protests outside the President's Office. Members of the Black Panthers visited the University. And the Journal—SMU's student newspaper—was filled with irate and opinionated editorials.

One of the areas of heated debate was the topic of co-education. In the years preceding the advent of women on campus, there were a number of men who publicly claimed it was a very bad idea. Inviting women in would dampen the school spirit and lower the school's academic standing; these were a few of the arguments floated.

But the administration was changing. Long a Jesuit-run institution, the University was undergoing secularization and becoming public – one that had to compete with other regional and national universities. In a taped recording that lives in the Saint Mary's University Archives at the Patrick Power Library, Father William A. Stewart—faculty and administration member from 1950-1982—remarked that trying to remain solely a boys' school in the late 1960s was not only impossible, it was also hindering the university's growth. Stewart was one of the first Saint Mary's professors to advocate for change and promote educational inclusivity for women and other marginalized communities.

"Many would say that this initial opening of the doors to women has paved the way to the kind of inclusiveness that Saint Mary's prides itself on today," says Bridget Brownlow, SMU's Conflict Resolution Advisor. She is referring to the fact that more than one quarter of the University's students are international and come from 80 different countries around the world.

Brownlow wrote an entire thesis on the conflict inherent in secularization and co-education and how it was managed by SMU during the years 1967-1970. "Saint Mary's really stepped up to the plate and actively participated in the wave of cultural change that was happening at that

Chris (Parker) Butler in a 1968 photo.

From left to right, Chris (Parker) Butler BA'69 BEd'70; Frances (Kelly) Murdock BA'67 (MSVU) BA'91 MEd'94; Mary-Evelyn Ternan BA'69 BEd'70 MEd'88

time," she says. "It's interesting to note that 50 years later, the number of female students actually now surpasses that of male students."

So, what was life like for those first 50 female students? While most have wonderful memories of their time at SMU, many admit that entering an all-male university wasn't a bed of roses.

For the first little while, there wasn't even a women's washroom. Female students couldn't stay in residence and had trouble finding a common space on campus to meet. Worst of all, some of these women had to deal with inappropriate and sexist comments from fellow students, and sometimes faculty.

One of the early champions for women students was Dr. Elizabeth Chard. She was the first full-time female faculty member, hired in 1961. She worked in the department of history, but when the University became co-educational, she also assumed the position of Dean of Women and the next year became Dean of the Women's Residence. Chard had a 44-year history with Saint Mary's and is known for many great accomplishments, but the women who first joined the University in 1968 remember her as someone who truly cared about students and acted as a mentor to many.

Another one of the first 50 women was Haligonian Chris Butler (nee Parker). After a wonderful summer working at the Halifax Citadel in 1968, the 21-year-old decided that her major would be History. Already a student at the Mount, she was disappointed to realize that she would not be able to get the credits she needed there. "When SMU made the decision to go co-ed, it seemed like the answer I was looking for."

"It's interesting to note that 50 years later, the number of female students actually now surpasses that of male students."

She loved her history courses and reports that all of her professors, save one, were supportive of female students. It was in one of these classes that she met her future husband and entered into a relationship that has lasted 46 years.

Together, they had three children (one of whom—Signa Butler, also a SMU alum—appears on this issue's cover). Chris went on to study education at Saint Mary's and then teach and act as a librarian assistant in the Halifax public education system.

In addition to finding mates for life, many of the first 50 found friends for life. Chris became fast friends with Mary-Evelyn Ternan (featured on page 29), who already knew Frances. Together they studied, smoked in a little sitting area right outside the library, and participated in some late night fun and games.

It was a whole new world of ideas and freedom, and 50 years later, many of these interesting and accomplished women still get together regularly and catch up.

"I can't believe how fast time has passed," says Frances. "Going to SMU was a blessing which opened a whole new world to me. I learned to listen, to observe, to think, to care, and to act. My years at SMU started me off on what has become a great life." ✧

There is more than **ONE** reason for alumni to come back to campus....

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A passion for EDUCATION

BY JOANIE VEITCH

The story of how Jillian Gibson came to be the Director of Philanthropy at Saint Mary's University began last spring with two phone calls—one from her niece in the Bahamas, the other from a recruitment agency.

Her niece was calling about her university plans. It had long been understood that she would come and live with the Gibson family in St. John's, Newfoundland where she would attend university with Jillian's daughter. They would go to Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) where Jillian had worked as a development officer since 2009.

On the phone that day, her niece told Jillian that she had been accepted at Saint Mary's University, explaining that she had only applied as a backup option because another cousin in the Bahamas had a really good experience there.

The second phone call came two days later. Jillian was at work when a recruitment agency contacted her on behalf of Saint Mary's to gauge her interest in the Director of Philanthropy position. Jillian wasn't looking for new work; she had just closed a successful $5 million campaign for the Faculty of Medicine and was happy in her role at the university.

"I wasn't seeking anything in any way when they called me, but when I heard it was a position at Saint Mary's, I was intrigued by the coincidence and out of curiosity asked them to tell me about it. It all started there!" laughs Jillian.

The St. John's native has always had an interest in exploring new things. After finishing high school in 1989, Jillian moved to Ontario to go to the University of Ottawa, where she graduated with a BA and BEd in French education in 1993. Inspired by her aunt Maxine, who lived in Puerto Rico, Jillian began applying for jobs in the Caribbean, moving to the Bahamas to work as a French teacher at a private school in 1994.

Marriage and children followed until one summer 10 years later, frustrated by the lack of organization in the school's fundraising efforts, Jillian decided to put together a proposal—a roadmap for how the school could be more strategic with their fundraising appeals.

"To this day I can't say why I took my summer holidays to write a fundraising proposal when I had no experience in that area," Jillian says. "I just saw a need."

The school administration loved the proposal but didn't have the resources to take the initiative any further. But then another Bahamian school heard about Jillian's ideas and asked her to help them do fundraising.

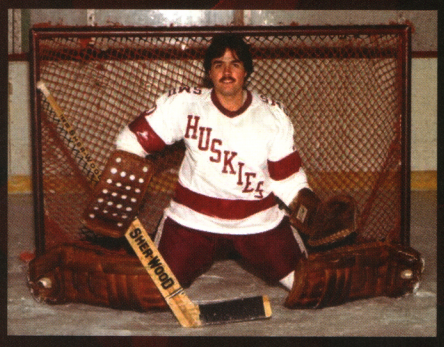
Since then, development work has been the focus of Jillian's career, supporting and expanding her

passion for education.

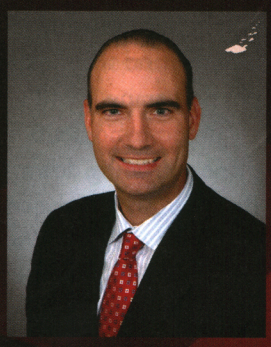
Moving to Halifax was a big move for the new Director of Philanthropy and her family, but already Jillian feels a sense of belonging to the campus community of Saint Mary's. "I didn't feel like a stranger who had to try and blend in. So many people here at Saint Mary's are from somewhere else, with a different culture and different background. Yes, I'm new here but I'm just like everyone else," she says. "One university, one world. I actually felt that, in just one day. ✧

SMU HUSKIES

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018 SMU SPORT HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Mark Locken
Hockey



Brian Thompson
Basketball

Frank Yakimchuk
Football

Induction ceremony taking place on **Saturday, October 13th** during Homecoming weekend.

SMU History of Sport online site is at smuhuskies.touchpros.com - check it out. If you have photos or information for the Hall of Fame or online History of Sport site contact us at info.athletics@smu.ca

Cari Duggan, first female to attend the Business Hockey Institute's MBA Program

Cari with Chris Pierce, also a SMU alumni, and co-founder of Outside Edge Hockey Development

Blazing the Way FOR WOMEN IN HOCKEY

BY RENÉE HARTLEIB

The year was 2015, and Cari Duggan had just scored an exciting new role with Canadian Blood Services as a lead negotiator. This was a dream job, one that the SMU grad had been building toward for years. But before she'd even settled into the new position, something happened that would change not only the course of Cari's career, but her entire life

Returning from a family trip to Florida in March of 2015, the plane carrying Cari, her husband Colin MacNeil BComm'98 and their 8-year-old son James, crashed at the Halifax International Airport. Photos from the scene show that the plane's landing gear and one of its engines were ripped out upon impact. Of the more than two dozen injuries, Cari's was one of the more serious. She broke her back in the accident and spent most of the next year at home, bedridden for several months, and then involved in intense physiotherapy.

"In those moments when the plane was going down, I honestly thought this was the end," says Cari. "So when the plane stopped and they carried me off, I wasn't feeling traumatized at all - I was just feeling very, very excited to be alive."

This sense of positive relief and excitement fuelled her recovery and astounded her family and friends. People asked her all the time why she wasn't more upset about what happened. "It's hard to explain to someone who hasn't been through it," she says, "but most people don't survive similar accidents. I just felt so lucky and so grateful. Every moment after the accident felt like a bonus."

Ironically, 'resilience' was a topic that Cari had been actively promoting for years.

After her graduation from SMU in 2000 with a BComm'98 and an MBA'00, Cari was snapped up by Bell and over the next 15 years worked her way through HR, eventually becoming Senior Manager – Labour Relations. "In all of our labour negotiations, one of the most important messages was about the need for resilience and learning the ability to positively reframe any situation that is thrown at you," she recalls. "And now, here I was, after the accident, having to do just that."

The biggest test came when she was

informed by medical professionals that returning to her dream job just wasn't an option. She simply wouldn't be able to sit for the long periods required of a Lead Negotiator.

And this is where Cari's story takes a rather unusual and magical turn. It's where a volunteer side-gig as a hockey manager for her kid's team evolved into a mind-blowing opportunity that Cari could never have seen coming.

When Cari was laid up in bed with her broken back, one of the hockey coaches she had worked with while volunteering became increasingly persistent about them starting a business together. Coincidentally also a SMU grad, Chris Pierce BSc'05 was very interested in Cari's unique approach to hockey management. "He kept telling me we should start a hockey school together."

The longer Cari was laid up, the more time she had to reflect on the accident and her life. "I started thinking more big-picture about the concept of meaning in work and wanting to make a difference." She loved working with kids and also really enjoyed working with Chris and felt their approach to business was sympatico. "Chris is a bit of an "off the beaten track" kind of person. He takes a unique approach to his work, very similar to what I have always done. When we worked together, we enjoyed the work and achieved great results."

It started very small, with Cari sending emails and writing some marketing materials for Chris' previous off-ice training program. "I was using all the marketing skills I'd learned at Saint Mary's," says Cari. They came up with a name, a logo, and a brand, and by the following Spring, they had several off-ice groups, teams training, and two of their own Spring hockey teams.

Within their first year, and with only a tiny training gym, Outside Edge Hockey Development was already being recognized as a place to send your hockey players for training. Cari gives full credit for this to Chris. "He really did his homework on researching the best practices in the industry for on and off ice training at all levels. Athletes are able to see great results with what he has designed."

This growth culminated in Chris being asked to train the Halifax Mooseheads, and in 2017, and just two years into business, one of Outside Edge's first athletes was chosen in the first round of the NHL Draft. That changed everything.

Cari and Chris had the amazing opportunity to attend the NHL Draft and see their athlete through the process. It's here that the next chapter began to unfold for Cari. Always one to expand her skill set, she expressed interest in finding out more about an MBA Program in Hockey Management through the Business Hockey Institute (BHI). "Before I knew it, I was talking to the Managing Director who was very interested in my corporate management and marketing credentials." They'd never had a female accepted into the Program.

"Cari's enrollment as the first female student in our program was a big day for BHI," says co-founder Ritch Winter. "Her vast accomplishments as a labor relations/ human resources professional are as impressive as her hockey business accomplishments – owning and operating a successful organization training and developing elite Canadian Hockey League players and NHL prospects." Winter cites a report from the Harvard Business Review that concludes that women in executive positions worldwide are not only succeeding, but also being rated by their peers, their bosses, and their direct reports as better overall leaders than their male counterparts.

"What we're seeing is that having women involved contributes to the health and effectiveness of companies and will become increasingly important to the success of hockey organizations as we move forward," says Winter. "We're delighted that we have scored an extremely qualified student in Cari, someone who has already shown the determination to succeed in all she does. She is spearheading the exploration of options for women in hockey."

Cari was offered one of only 16 spots available in each year of the program, and was also granted a prestigious "Top Prospects" scholarship, the maximum amount awarded by the Business Hockey Institute. When she accepted, she became the first female in North America to join this elite NHL professional hockey management program.

"I am so honoured to be the first woman accepted and really see this as a great trailblazing opportunity," says Cari. "Making women feel more welcome in the hockey world and demonstrating some leadership in hockey from a female perspective feels great. Hockey's a big industry, so there's something to be said about that."

Cari laughingly admits that she never would have seen any of this coming. "When I was sitting at the NHL draft, I felt awed that this is my new normal. It's so very different from what I used to do."

As for the accident that began it all, while Cari would never have chosen to be in a plane crash, she can now see it as a crucial fork in the road. "Losing my career could have been devastating for me, but it's all about how you choose to look at challenges. I see it as an event that sparked a whole new way of making a difference." ✧

IN IT FOR THE LONG RIDE

BY JOANIE VEITCH

Gavin Giles is a successful litigation lawyer with more than 30 years of experience. He's also raised more than $250,000 on the Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour, and has received a distinguished service award for his commitment to the Canadian Red Cross Society, an organization he now heads up as their national chair.

Yet when asked what he's most proud of, Giles fumbles for words. "I'm just a guy. I do what I do. I hope to make things better," he says, pausing again before adding, "but I guess I'm really proud that I've managed to ride my bike up all of the toughest climbs in the Tour de France."

In fact, Giles cycles between 6,000 and 10,000 kilometres a year, often in France with his wife Denise Stirling. "I absolutely love it," he says. "If I could start again, I would be a professional cyclist."

That Giles seems so humble about his accomplishments might stem from his early years, growing up in what he calls "relatively meagre" circumstances. "We were members of the working poor, but I can honestly say we didn't feel that way."

His mother was an active community volunteer and always encouraged Giles and his older brother to help other people. "Right up until she died, I spoke with my mother every day on the phone and one question she would always ask was: 'How are you living?'"

What she meant by that, Giles says, was 'Are you keeping your pride in your pocket and doing for others?' "That was what mattered to her. Not any success I might have had," he recalls.

Born in Montreal, Giles and his family moved to Halifax in 1968, just before he started Grade 7. And despite his successful career—he's currently a partner at McInnes Cooper in Halifax with a list of professional achievements too numerous to mention—Giles's academic track record early on was, by his own admission, not stellar.

"I was not an academically inclined person; I was dyslexic, I still am, but over time I have learned to cope with it," he says. "It wasn't diagnosed until much later, so I was seen as a stupid kid who misbehaved a lot in school. The analysis went no further."

After graduating from Queen Elizabeth II High School, Giles studied political science at Saint Mary's University. That he graduated as a Dean's List Scholar in 1981 and went to law school is the result of a remarkable turn-around that Giles attributes as much to a special Saint Mary's professor as he does to his own efforts.

Giles can remember clearly the day Ed McBride called him into his office. "He looked me in the eye and said 'You're just wasting your time here. You're going through the motions. . .I know you could be doing so much better than you're doing'," Giles recalls.

Taken aback at first, Giles went away and thought a lot about what his professor had said. He started making changes. "Did it happen overnight? No, of course, it didn't, but it was pretty close to that," he says.

Giles graduated from Dalhousie Law School in 1985. His current litigation practice is in commercial and construction disputes and complex insurance and human rights issues. He has appeared before many courts and tribunals throughout the country.

His career has taught him a lot about keeping an open mind. "There are strengths and weaknesses in every case, but the end result always has to be fair. I try to retain my objectivity so I can see it from the other side."

Gavin's work with the Canadian Red Cross, which started as a result of a friend asking him to co-chair an awards dinner back in 2002, gives Giles an even broader perspective of the view from "the other side."

"There are people all around us, and everywhere in the world, who are in lousy circumstances – under-resourced and under-supported. But for the luck of the draw any one of us could be any one of those people. Any one of us could be in Haiti, or Nepal, or Syria. Is it fair? No. Those of us who have been fairly treated by life can do a lot to make a big difference for those who haven't."

When his term as national chair of the society is up, Giles says he will definitely continue to stay involved, as the past chair role is an active one. He's also interested in working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which represents more than 190 such national organizations around the world.

"The Red Cross can provide services to people that governments cannot. When a sudden crisis hits, governments are not nimble enough to respond but the Red Cross is. It is pretty amazing—and pretty humbling—to be able to watch this amazing face of humanity unfold. I might be the volunteer, but the privilege is truly mine." ✧

NEW DEAN AT THE SOBEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

BY KATE WATSON

When Dr. Harjeet Bhabra received his first degree from the Indian Institute of Technology 35 years ago, he didn't imagine he'd be leading a life in academia. Instead, he set out on a career in naval design engineering. However, when finance began to interest him, he applied to an MBA Program in Bangalore, which eventually led him to the University of Missouri, Columbia, and a PhD in Finance.

He spent the next 20 years at Concordia University's John Molson School of Business teaching as a professor of finance, and also researching and helping to lead the school.

Now Dr. Bhabra has joined Saint Mary's University as the new Dean of the Sobey School of Business, and he couldn't be happier.

"I spent several years as Associate Dean at the Molson School of Business, and I learned a lot about the synergy of academics and administration," explains Dr. Bhabra, who moved to Halifax in late August and has been settling into a busy Fall routine. "I'm excited to be stepping into a role that's not limited to my portfolio, and where collaboration is integral to success."

Dr. Bhabra's areas of expertise include capital structure, corporate governance, initial public offerings, and financing decisions, and he's done extensive research on all of these topics.

"Research fascinates me," he says. "It gives me the opportunity to create knowledge, and then in my role as a professor, I've had the opportunity to take this knowledge back to the classroom and share it with my students."

The Sobey School of Business has an impressive reputation—its MBA program is ranked among the top programs in the country—and this is a reputation Dr. Bhabra intends to build on. "The graduate programs and undergraduate program at Saint Mary's are outstanding, and obviously we want these to continue to grow.

"And, although the PhD program is small, it's impressive. My intention is to add research-based programs carefully, and to work with our graduate students to build our research reputation."

Dr. Bhabra also intends to seek new opportunities for international collaboration. He hopes to build on the model of cross-cultural communication that the Sobey School of Business has already shown in its student and faculty exchanges with China.

"I believe in my role as Dean, I can and must provide a vision," says Dr. Bhabra. "But it has to be a vision that can be embraced by the faculty working for collective success. In that regard, I think entrepreneurship is a growing area for business education that has already been embraced in the school, and one where I think we can work toward even more growth."

For Dr. Bhabra, becoming Dean of the Sobey School of Business is the next step in a career that has kept him motivated and intellectually stimulated for more than two decades. He says that while the demands of the job will likely be large and unpredictable, he expects that the rewards will be equally large.

"I'm looking forward to taking on a new challenge. The academic life offers a lot of flexibility in what you choose to do, and I'm very fortunate in where my choices have led me." ✧

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Adam Lordon with his Mom, Nancy Lordon, on the Marilyn Denis Show.

Building Vibrant COMMUNITIES

Saint Mary's Grad Becomes Mayor of Home Town

BY KRISTA KEOUGH

As a young boy growing up in Chatham, New Brunswick, Adam Lordon's mother instilled in him and his siblings the importance of giving back. As a city councilor and the first female Deputy Mayor of the City, Nancy Lordon was as well-known for her community service as she was for her involvement in politics.

She was an avid volunteer, championed initiatives to reduce poverty, supported environmental causes, and was an advocate for women in government. There's no doubt that his mother inspired him, but if you had told Adam then that today he would be the Mayor of Miramichi, "I wouldn't have believed you," he says, with a laugh.

It wasn't until Adam visited Halifax for the first time on a high school class trip to Saint Mary's that he considered going to university in another province. As soon as he arrived on campus, he immediately felt a sense of community; everyone he met welcomed him and put him at ease. Plus, the prospect of a new adventure—close to home but not too far away—intrigued him.

In September 2002, Adam returned to Halifax, this time as a Saint Mary's student. He lived and worked in residence, and was voted Residence Assistant of the year for Loyola twice. As the volunteer coordinator and event planner at SMUSA, he instituted activities like SMUmazing Race, which involved dozens of local sponsors and volunteers from the community. He also co-founded the Random Acts of Kindness Squad, bringing alive his mother's teachings on campus.

Voted Valedictorian of his class in 2007, Adam graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree (magna cum laude) with majors in Marketing and Management. "I was the first of my generation in my mom's family to graduate from university," says Adam. He adds that seeing how proud his mother was, for him to graduate and be valedictorian, is something he will never forget.

With his degree in hand, Adam set out on his next adventure: moving to Toronto. Many of his friends from Saint Mary's were living and working there, too, and it wasn't long before he made a name for himself in his chosen field of TV production. After an internship at MTV Canada, he moved up the ranks at So You Think You Can Dance Canada, and went on to become a senior producer for The Marilyn Denis Show.

But in the summer of 2014, Adam's life took a very unexpected turn. His mother, Nancy, was diagnosed with terminal cancer and he quickly returned home. After only a few months Nancy

passed away, but her legacy has lived on in many, and some very unexpected, ways.

"Coming home changed my life in the worst possible way, but I believe now that it all happened for a reason," says Adam. When he returned to Miramichi, he became quickly aware of the role that young people were playing in the revival and renewal of his community. "The older generation was handing us the baton. They wanted us to become involved. I saw this as my opportunity." He ran to fill Nancy's seat in the by-election, becoming the youngest councilor the city has ever had, and was elected Mayor of Miramichi in November 2016. At 32-years-old, he is the youngest mayor in the city's history.

Today, Adam is busy producing and directing documentaries, videos, and working on TV shows like Amazing Race Canada and Master Chef Canada, while balancing his mayoral duties. Although being the Mayor of Miramichi is not a full-time job, Adam is totally committed to the role. Over the next two and a half years, he is looking forward to securing funding for a multiplex sports facility and finishing several waterfront development projects.

He credits Saint Mary's with giving him a foundation from which to learn, along with some of his best memories. "The connections I made and the community we formed together—both professional and social—has just continued to grow." Adam believes that he received as much of an education outside the classroom, pointing to the university's global campus standing. "I gained my sense of the world at Saint Mary's and learned how to be a conscientious global citizen."

In memory of his mother, Adam's family established the Nancy Lordon Memorial Scholarship Fund to give financial support to female students who are involved in their community. Each summer they host a free BBQ in Miramichi and collect donations for the fund. Not only is it a way to give back, it's about living out the values his mother taught him.

"I love gathering people together to do service in mom's name and raise money for those in need," he says. "My mom is undoubtedly my hero. None of my accomplishments would be possible if it weren't for her." ✧

CREATING GROWTH *at Home*

BY RENÉE HARTLEIB

Colin Gillis, right, with Smarter Spaces co-owner, Dan MacIntosh

As a 14-year-old kid helping to run his family's bed & breakfast in Cape Breton, Colin Gillis would have had a hard time imagining a future in 3D scanning. But that's exactly where he is.

As co-owner of the fast-growing company Smarter Spaces, Gillis and his business partner, Dan MacIntosh, help companies, organizations, landlords, developers, and commercial brokers create detailed digital models of the inner workings of buildings.

"We help our clients better understand their spaces," says Gillis, adding that 3D scanning aids in renovations, by reducing change orders and saving time and money. Scanning can also assist in the creation of evacuation maps and fire safety plans.

One client, a property landlord in downtown St. John's, Newfoundland, had Smarter Spaces create a 3D rendering of one of their rental units for a prospective tenant. It's incredibly lifelike and includes details like the placement of a computer keyboard at each cubicle. Gillis' team also inserted actual photos of the view of the St. John's Harbour into the rendering, which will undoubtedly be a selling point. The prospective tenant can actually "walk" through the space and feel they are in it. In a competitive rental market, where landlords need to ensure their space stands out, this is a big boost.

The Smarter Spaces team uses LiDAR (light detection and ranging) technology—the same tools the military has been using for years—in a mobile unit that fits into a backpack and creates a meticulous record of what a space contains. "Rather than examining above ceilings with a flashlight and guessing what's in the space, 3D scanning produces an accurate image," says Gillis. It's this accuracy that has clients lining up to work with his company. "It sounds simple, but one of the biggest causes of cost overruns in any building project are the 'I didn't know that was there' moments."

Smarter Spaces evolved from a company called IPECC, a project

"We're excited to be growing nationally and internationally, but our biggest motivation has been to create value here above all else."

management and relocation company that Gillis and MacIntosh co-owned. A decade into business, a lack of growth and profit had them reconsidering their options. In 2016, they decided to shift gears, enter the new field of 3D scanning and name themselves Smarter Spaces. A Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) loan to purchase equipment gave them the jumpstart they needed to transform their business and bring 3D mobile scanning to Atlantic Canada.

Since then, they've been garnering international recognition while keeping the home base of the company right here in Nova Scotia. Over the last year alone, the company has doubled in size and their work has been recognized through the prestigious BOMA Pinnacle Award for Innovation. Their growing client roster includes names like City of Halifax, Jazz Aviation, and Innovacorp, Armco, Southwest Properties, Eastport Properties, Templeton, Crombie REIT, Acadia, MSVU, Dalhousie, SMU and Irving Shipbuilding.

For Gillis, Smarter Spaces is a marriage of two of his biggest loves – technology and entrepreneurship. Helping to run the family bed & breakfast allowed him to learn some business basics, which he later augmented at Saint Mary's. The SMU grad studied a mix of marketing, human resources, and project management, graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce in 1997.

According to Gillis, Saint Mary's gave him the space to explore his love of entrepreneurship. "There were professors, like Dr. Ellen Farrell (Sobey School of Business faculty) who taught me that I didn't need to gain skills working for someone else before opening my own business."

While in Farrell's class, Gillis and three classmates designed a plan for an indoor climbing gym. They took that project to the Queen's Entrepreneurship Competition, placing fifth in the country. "That early success made me realize that my ideas were valid and that I didn't need to wait to become an entrepreneur," says Gillis. "Ellen was an incredible mentor and a role model for dedication and passion in entrepreneurship."

Today, in addition to giving back through his own mentorship and guidance of young entrepreneurs, Gillis is working hard to expand Smarter Spaces' reach right across the country. They have scored a few national clients, including Armco and Crombie, and just opened another office in London, Ontario.

Nova Scotia will always be their home base, though. Gillis and his team love the idea that they are working to make our province a centre for 3D scanning technology excellence. Most companies that do digital renderings have the work done in China or India, but Gillis is proud to say they are keeping jobs here.

"A big part of our mission is to create economic growth in Nova Scotia. We're excited to be growing nationally and internationally, but our biggest motivation has been to create value here above all else." ✧

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BOOMING BUSINESSES ABROAD

Salman Bin Rashid Shah Sayeem in his Bangladesh office

Dhaka businessman, Arman Mohammed

BY RENÉE HARTLEIB

When Bangladeshi-born Salman Bin Rashid Shah Sayeem was living in Halifax and studying Accounting at Saint Mary's, he couldn't help but notice the different ways that Canadians could book travel. "In Bangladesh, we didn't have any online ticketing options for air travel, but when I was in Canada I would hear things about Expedia and Cheapoair, and it really got me thinking."

Subsequent conversations with his businessman father, and some research, led Salman Bin Rashid to realize the idea of an online travel agency option in his home country was one worth exploring. After graduating with a BComm last October, the Saint Mary's graduate returned to Bangladesh, began to build a team, and decided to go for it.

They named the business Flight Expert. It is Bangladesh's first online travel agency where people can book air tickets and hotels using their local credit or debit cards. To say it's taken off is an understatement. Even Bin Rashid is astonished by its rapid growth.

"We've only been in business six months, and we're now listed as Bangladesh's second largest e-Commerce site." He adds that Flight Expert already has alliances with 625 worldwide airlines and 250,000 hotels and has recently been promoted by American Express and VISA. "All this has happened in such a short period of time, and it's my sense that the future potential of this company is huge." In fact, Bin Rashid is currently planning an expansion to Canada.

This will mean more travel back to Halifax and visits with great friends and favourite professors at Saint Mary's – something he's enormously excited about. "I've travelled to more than 30 different countries all over the world, and I've seen many different cultures and met all kinds of people. But I've never experienced anything like Halifax and Saint Mary's. It is truly something special – a place where I felt respected as a human being and where race and culture didn't matter."

⌑

When Arman Mohammed first heard about Saint Mary's, he still lived in Dhaka, the largest city in Bangladesh. At that time, he would have no way of knowing that less than a year later, he would crawl inside a warm, fuzzy Huskies mascot outfit and proceed to dance, jump, and fist pump for the benefit of loyal Huskies fans.

This is just one of the many ways that Arman became involved in campus life. He also worked as an RA, was involved in the International Center as a volunteer, and acted as an Intramural Coordinator with the Athletics Department.

By the time he graduated in 2012 with a BComm in Marketing, he was madly in love with Halifax and decided to stay. He worked a few jobs in banking and sales, and as a self-described "foodie," enjoyed the restaurants and food trucks that Halifax had to offer.

A bit disillusioned with the 9-5 life, Arman realized he was drawn to entrepreneurship. The only problem was that his permit status in Canada wouldn't allow him to explore that route. He decided to return to Bangladesh, where he could test out a small business.

While it was hard to say good-bye to Saint Mary's and Halifax, Arman was excited to be his own boss. He started with a small food cart in 2014 that sold poutine on the streets of Dhaka. "The experience helped me begin to learn the food business and also helped me realize that this could become my career." He was fortunate to meet a kindred spirit and together they took their food carts one step further and opened a restaurant, called Madchef, the next year.

Madchef is all about burgers and has quickly grown to four outlets in Dhaka. The restaurant is widely considered to be one of the top burger joints in Bangladesh and recently won a FOODIEZ choice Award.

Proud of their unique product and strong brand name, Arman is now venturing into the canteen business at local schools and universities. He hopes Madchef will one day go international. In the meantime, he still keeps in touch with Saint Mary's, particularly the recruitment office, and recently held a recruitment event at one of his restaurants in Dhaka.

"I feel very positive about Saint Mary's and Halifax and like to spread the word to potential students here," he says. "I tell them how life abroad can expand your experience and perspective and really enhance your sense of what is possible." ✧

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New Arena FOR SAINT MARY'S

BY ALLISON GERRARD

In mid-June, more than 150 Saint Mary's supporters crowded into the Homburg Centre for Health & Wellness to celebrate the unveiling of a new on-campus arena. Students, staff, faculty, coaches, alumni, politicians, and donors saw architectural renderings of the structure and heard, for the first time, what the arena will be called.

The facility, which will house an NHL-sized ice surface, will be home to the men's and women's varsity hockey teams.

"For 50 years, the old Alumni Arena served as a community gathering space," says Dr. Rob Summerby-Murray, President and Vice-Chancellor of Saint Mary's University. "We're now in the position of being able to build an upgraded arena, where Saint Mary's will continue its proud and successful hockey tradition for generations to come."

The much-anticipated building, which will have the capacity to host more than 1200 fans, is named in honour of the late Bob Dauphinee, a Saint Mary's alumnus, philanthropist, and community champion, who bequeathed $2 million to the University. Members of Dauphinee's family were on-hand for the arena's naming.

"He wanted this campus to have a new arena – one that could be used by both Saint Mary's and its neighbours," says Dennis Connolly, executor of the Dauphinee estate. "And as Bob's long-time friend and business partner, I'm confident he'd approve of The Dauphinee Centre. He'd approve of its purpose, its design, and the role it will have in the community."

The Dauphinee Centre will feature an upper-level warming room with an attached fan area that overlooks the ice surface, a pedway link to the Homburg Centre for Health and Wellness, and men's and women's varsity dressing rooms that are equal to the best junior hockey

- NHL-sized ice surface
- Home ice for Saint Mary's men's and women's varsity hockey teams
- Capacity for more than 1200 fans, including 850 individual seats
- Heated spectator space
- Sightlines to enhance fan experience
- Upper-level warming room with an attached fan space that overlooks the ice
- Pedway link to the Homburg Centre for Health & Wellness
- Six fully-accessible changing rooms that can be used by community-based recreational sports groups, summer camps, and other users during the off-season

Members of the Dauphinee family and estate were presented with a hockey jersey.

Glen and Nancy Holmes display their hockey jersey's with Vice-President, Advancement, Erin Sargeant Greenwood, and Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors, Scott Norton.

facilities in the country. These arena enhancements are being made possible through a generous gift of $2 million from local entrepreneurs Glen and Nancy Holmes, owners of Pseudio, Samuel & Co, and Envy. They're also the proud parents of two Saint Mary's students.

"As a family, we are thrilled to play a role in the building of what will be one of the best arenas in the region for player and fan experience," says Glen Holmes. "And as local entrepreneurs, we believe it's important to give back to the community; this facility will be key to the Saint Mary's experience, and will benefit everyone as a community resource and gathering place. We are enjoying watching the construction and can't wait to celebrate the opening and see the first puck drop at a Huskies game."

Scott Gray, the University's Director of Athletics and Recreation, is also excited about the opening of the new arena. "It will contribute to student and athlete recruitment, and it will be a place where Saint Mary's will continue to engage with our community – some of us as athletes, others of us as sports and recreation enthusiasts."

Alumnus and former varsity hockey player, Brian Fulton, BA'85 flew in from Toronto to be a part of The Dauphinee Centre's launch.

"I can't think of a better reason to be back on campus," says Fulton, President & CEO of Mercedes-Benz Canada. "When I was asked to be the emcee for this event, I thought back on my days as a hockey Husky. And here we are years later, gathered to celebrate the construction of a brand-new facility that will not only benefit the University but the Halifax community as a whole."

With construction already well underway, and with a budget of $14.8 million, The Dauphinee Centre is scheduled to open in time for the 2019 hockey season.

⌑

To keep an eye on arena milestones, visit https://news.smu.ca/arena. ✧

EVENTS

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

Spring Convocation

The SMU Alumni family grew considerably in May as we welcomed over 750 new alumni at our Spring Convocation. Congratulations to all of our recent alumni for your hard work and dedication – you did it!

Halifax Pride Parade

More than 70 SMU students, alumni, faculty, and staff donned their best rainbow tie-dye for the Halifax Pride Parade! Despite the rainy day, the parade was a huge success, and we were excited to have so many Santamarians walking with the SMU float or cheering on throughout the parade route. If you'd like to volunteer with the Alumni Office for any upcoming events, please contact alumni@smu.ca.

Farewell to Dean Pat Bradshaw

After a successful six-year tenure, Dr. Patricia Bradshaw ended her term as Dean of the Sobey School of Business in May. More than 200 alumni, colleagues, students, and friends gathered to thank Dr. Bradshaw for her incredible impact on students, alumni, and the business community. We also announced the creation of the Dr. Patricia Bradshaw Competition Fund, which supports student and team competitions. Thank you to alumni Michael (BComm'87 DComm'10) and Catherine (BComm'87) Durland who matched the $25,000 gifted by Saint Mary's to help establish the fund.

SMU Alumni Maritime Tour

In April and May, we hit the road to visit alumni in Fredericton, Saint John, Sydney, Moncton, and Charlottetown. It was great to catch up with our alumni and hear about the amazing things they're up to! We hope to hold more events across the Maritimes, so make sure to check smu.ca/alumni to know when we'll be in your area!

UPDATE YOUR INFO

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

42nd Annual Alumni Golf Tournament

This August, we held the 42nd Annual Alumni Golf Tournament at Glen Arbour Golf Course. This was our first year at Glen Arbour, and we were joined by 31 teams who enjoyed the gorgeous greens and perfect weather. Congratulations to Siemens – this year's winning team! We were also proud to present over 20 students with $1,000 bursaries, thanks to our sponsors.

SMU Alumni VIP Jazz Fest Experience

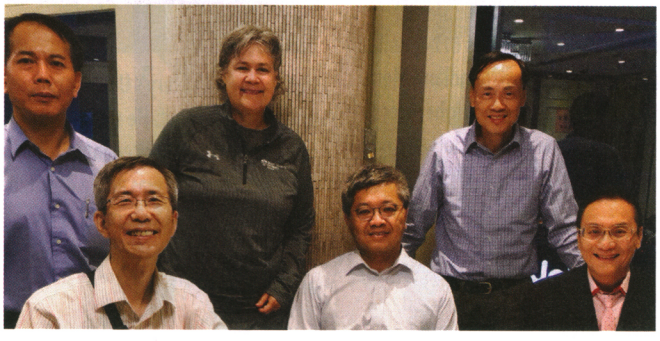
We had a sold-out VIP tent for this year's TD Halifax Jazz Festival featuring Daniel Caesar and Charlotte Day Wilson. Over 250 Santamarians got the VIP treatment with their own bar, free food, early access to the festival, and comfy seating – what a way to celebrate the closing night of a great festival!

Gorsebrook Patio Opening

We invited alumni to help break in the new Gorsebrook patio with a couple of patio parties throughout the summer. While the weather didn't fully cooperate, our Huskies Home Opener pre-game party was a huge success! We look forward to having more events in this great new space in the future.

SMU Alumni Enactus Toronto Event

In May, the Enactus team finished in the top four at the national competition in Toronto. The students celebrated this great accomplishment with alumni at a fun post-competition reception. Congratulations to the Enactus team for representing SMU on a national stage!



BNUZ Convocation

Saint Mary's University staff and faculty travelled to China for the graduation of the first cohort of a unique program based on an international partnership between SMU and Beijing Normal University-Zhuhai (BNUZ). While in China, Director of Alumni Engagement, Mary Ann Daye BComm'85, also had the chance to catch up with alumni at different events including an alumni dinner in Hong Kong!

SMU Alumni Antigua & Barbuda Reception

Antigua & Barbuda's Minister of Education, the Hon. Michael Browne, visited Halifax during the Spring Convocation to celebrate the accomplishments of our Antiguan & Barbudan students and alumni. We had the chance to catch up with Antiguan & Barbudan alumni and future alumni at a small reception during his visit.

CLASS NOTES

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

1981

Robert Downey BComm'81 has recently retired from the federal public service after 33 years in the field of Human Resources. During his career, Robert worked in seven federal organizations in three provinces and held positions such as: Senior Labour Relations Advisor at National Defence Headquarters; Manager of HR Operations, NCR Region at Fisheries and Oceans Canada; Chief of Labour Relations at the Privy Council Office; and most recently Senior Policy Analyst at Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada. Robert currently resides in Ottawa and plans on remaining in Ontario during his retirement. His future plans include travel, continuing his family genealogical research, and resuming his involvement with the sport of boxing in an administrative capacity.

1982

Tim McCluskey BEd'82 is the President of the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation's Board of Directors. The Fergusson Foundation (FF) is dedicated to the prevention and elimination of family violence is all forms. Tim lived for 26 years in Kamloops and moved back to the Maritimes in 2010 for a position with the Office of Educator Excellence at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's (EECD). He currently lives in Fredericton, New Brunswick and has been seconded to EECD's Facilities and Pupil Transportation Branch where he leads initiatives on water, conveyance, accessibility, and continues to play a lead role in water quality, occupational health and safety, and school safety and security. Tim remains in touch with several classmates from the class of 1982, and when not on his bicycle, watching his Leafs in winter, or buried in a book, might be found at a cottage in Caissie Cape or visiting one of his offspring in either Halifax or Toronto.

1985

Roger Russell MBA'85 was recently appointed Dean of Professional Programs at Crandall University (CU) in Moncton, New Brunswick. Roger has served CU for the past 12 years as Director of the Adult Professional Studies Division, while teaching in Organizational Management at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. He says hello to all his Saint Mary's classmates and can be reached at roger.russell@crandallu.ca

1986

Darrell Gaudet BA'86 was recently honoured for his contributions to community and policing by the Governor General of Canada by being inducted as a member of the Order of Merit Police Forces. A proud former Husky football player, Darrel is now in his 30th year of policing, and has had a diverse career. He is currently posted in Ottawa as a Staff Sergeant with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Federal Policing Specialized Services.

1993

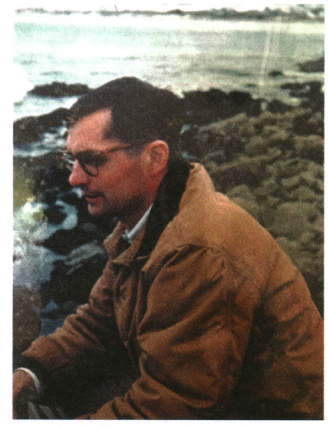
Colin MacMillan BA'93 joined the Board of The Works Museum in Minneapolis, a non-profit hand-on kids museum promoting STEM education, in September 2018. Colin is Senior Director, Technology Operations, at Optum Technology, which creates automation and cloud infrastructures across the globe. Optum is the technology, services, and venture capitalist arm of United Health Group, a US$200B global health care leader.

1998

John (Jackie) Barrett BComm'98 has been named as one of the 50 Movement Makers for the 50th anniversary of the Special Olympics in Canada. This is in recognition of his success both on and off the stage and the role he has played in helping the Special Olympics to grow. At the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles, Barrett's 656-pound deadlift broke Special Olympics records and his 611-pound squat broke the Newfoundland Men's Master-1 Super-Heavyweight record. He earned three gold medals and one silver that year.

2006

Robert Joseph Bollini, 84, passed away peacefully on May 8, 2018, at his home in Montclair, New Jersey. Born in Springfield, MA, and raised in Torrington, CT, he was the son of the late Hugo and Mary Bollini. A well-rounded scholar, he earned a BA in zoology from Cornell University, an MA in linguistics from Georgetown University, and a Ph.D. in history from The University of California, Berkeley. He was a well-loved professor of



history at Saint Mary's University until his retirement. He served his country as a First Lieutenant in the Army in Korea and was also a devoted birder and Audubon member, a lover of nature, and both a photographer and painter.

In Memoriam

William Adams
BSc'63
July 23, 2018

Dr Robert Bollini
Faculty
May 8, 2018

Wilson Capstick
BA'75
September 1, 2018

Joan Chaffey
BA'79
April 29, 2018

Oliver Cormier
BComm'46
June 3, 2018

Paul Crane
BComm'60
June 1, 2018

Marie Cron
BA'93
April 26, 2018

Donald Dignan
BA'80
July 6, 2018

Carl Edward
BComm'57
July 17, 2018

Beverly Evens
MA'79
July 28, 2018

Craig Etheridge
BA'00
June 1, 2018

Jocelyn Field
BComm'12
July 16, 2018

Rev Paul Granville
MA'59
June 4, 2018

Ronald Hanlon
BSc'79
May 27, 2018

Miriam Hayman
Friend
July 8, 2018

Dorothy Heinze
BA'79
August 8, 2018

Bruce Hyland
BComm'46
July 15, 2018

Anneliese Jopling
Friend
June 10, 2018

Earl Lantz
BComm'71, MA'80
July 11, 2018

Kenneth MacCarthy
HS'51
April 28, 2018

Colleen MacDonald
Alum'76
May 8, 2018

Robert MacKay
BEd'92
August 16, 2018

Anthony McGlone
BA'85
May 4, 2018

Earl Mintern
BComm'70
June 6, 2018

Tom Murphy
BComm'48
August 29, 2018

James Noah
BA'64
June 27, 2018

Gary Ramey
BA'88
July 25, 2018

Philip Riteman
LLD'12
August 8, 2018

Vera Stone
BA'69, BEd'69
May 20, 2018

Donald Williams
DipENG'56
May 13, 2018

Sidney Winter
BA'97, CertHON'00
June 25, 2018

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An Inspiring Stay IN ROME

BY MATTHEW HALLIDAY

Dean MacDonald with graduate students on the roof of the Pontifical Biblical Institute (the Biblicum), overlooking the Pontifical Gregorian University

Dr. MacDonald with Dr. Donna Orsuto, Director of The Lay Centre at Foyer Unitas

Dean of Arts Dr. Margaret MacDonald BA'83 has spent her professional life immersed in the scholarship of early Christianity and the world of ancient Rome. So it was quite literally a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in spring 2018, when she was offered a three-month position as the McCarthy Chair in Biblical Studies at Rome's Pontifical Biblical Institute (PBI), one of the world's foremost centres of theological scholarship.

"It was one of the most exciting professional honours of my life," says Dr. MacDonald. "And it just exceeded expectations in every way."

PBI welcomes students from more than 60 nations, and the McCarthy Chair has been designated for a senior woman scholar on a rotating basis since 2015. Recent Chair holders hail from Duke University and Yale Divinity School, each of whom, like Dr. MacDonald, conducted their own personal research and worked with graduate students from around the world.

The study of ancient texts and languages is at the heart of the intellectual life of the Biblicum. Dr. MacDonald has previous published work on a variety of aspects of the ancient Roman world, from family life to the "house churches" where early Christianity took shape. Her work not only made PBI a fitting scholarly choice, but an incredible personal experience.

"Rome was a perfect backdrop to explore Paul's letters with an understanding of the first-century Mediterranean world where these documents were written," says Dr. MacDonald. "The library at the Biblicum is superb, welcoming scholars from all over the world and is a precious resource for biblical scholars and those in classics and archaeology."

Working with another invited professor, Professor Santiago Oporto Guijarro from the Pontifical University of Salamanca, Dr. MacDonald accompanied students on explorations of Roman sites such as Ostia Antica—a vast archaeological site located at the harbour of ancient Rome, and often referred to as "mini" Pompeii, with houses, markets, temples, and an ancient synagogue offering a real-world insight into the ancient Roman world Dr. MacDonald has spent her career studying.

The wealth of archaeological sites, including ancient houses—many of which were the first centres of early Christian worship—provided new insights into her own research, and an appreciation for the city's incredible layers of history.

"The Basilica of San Clemente is only a few minutes' walk from where I was living," she says. "It was built on the site of an ancient commercial or industrial building, and an ancient domestic dwelling where the god Mithras was worshipped in the first century. The site also has an early Christian Basilica going back to the fourth century. And the Basilica standing above all of them dates from the 12th century!"

Dr. MacDonald also had an opportunity to present some of her work at the Lay Centre in Rome—a centre devoted to fostering Christian unity and inter-religious dialogue. Dennis Savoie, Canada's Ambassador to the Vatican was in the audience for the event.

And, somewhat unexpectedly, she was able to catch up with old friends, including Saint Mary's alumnus Luca Codignola-Bo, an Adjunct Professor in the Department of History at the University of Notre Dame, who holds an honorary degree from Saint Mary's; and Reverend Richard Smith, Archbishop of Edmonton, a Saint Mary's alumnus in BComm'81 in the city for meetings.

"Rome is truly an international centre for culture and learning, and it was inspirational to be there for three months," says Dr. MacDonald. "I hope that the experience will help me support the many global endeavours at Saint Mary's in the future." ✧

TRUE SANTAMARIAN

ALUMNI ACCOLADES

DEDICATED ALUMNAE HONOURED WITH VOLUNTEER AWARD

BY RENÉE HARTLEIB

She is Mary-Evelyn by birth, but simply "MEV" to the many who know and love her.

This issue's True Santamarian—Mary-Evelyn Ternan—has deep roots at Saint Mary's. Her father, brother, sister, and a nephew are all SMU grads and Mary-Evelyn herself was one of the first 50 female students when Saint Mary's went co-ed in the late 1960s (see article on page 8).

After completing her BA, she entered SMU's one-year Bachelor of Education Program, and by 1970, was a full-time teacher at Central Spryfield School. Mary-Evelyn taught there for 17 years before returning to Saint Mary's to complete her Masters in Education.

"They couldn't get rid of me!" she jokes.

In 2003, she wrapped up a 33-year-long career with the Halifax Regional School Board, where she was heavily involved in the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

Even after her retirement from teaching, Mary-Evelyn returned to SMU, joining the Alumni Council in 2009, and spending two years as Alumni President and then two years as Alumni Past President. During this time, she was also on the Advancement Committee, the Governance Committee, and the Board of Governors.

"I feel a tremendous amount of pride in the institution that is Saint Mary's. And also in its students, graduates, professors, and staff," she says. "For me, it's been very important to give back to my community and to this University through volunteering. And I've gotten so much out of it for myself. The students have kept me feeling young!"

Over the last decade, Mary-Evelyn set the bar high, attending nearly all of the numerous Saint Mary's University and Alumni Association-related events and volunteering her time in whatever capacity was needed, and always with a smile.

Scott McElman is the incoming Alumni President and has had the delight of spending time with Mary-Evelyn and learning from her vast experience. "Over the years knowing MEV, I have found that two things are true about her: she has a big heart full of love for her SMU community, and she really does know everyone!"

Her dedication has certainly not gone unnoticed. In fact, the kudos have been rolling in from all corners of the University.

"MEV is the true definition of a Santamarian and is one of the University's biggest champions. She has so much passion and love for the entire SMU Community," says Sarah Ferguson, Alumni President 2016-2018. "She has been invaluable on the Alumni Council and Board of Governors and I personally have been very grateful for her continued commitment."

Although 2018 marks her final year volunteering with us, Mary-Evelyn is going out with a bang. This Fall, she received the prestigious Paul Lynch Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award, presented to an alum who remains dedicated to the Saint Mary's community; volunteers their time with committees, events, and the Alumni Council; and is a champion of Saint Mary's.

Thrilled to receive this honour, Mary-Evelyn says this particular award is even more special because she and Paul, who passed away last year, went to Grade Primary together at Sacred Heart in Halifax.

Many at SMU were delighted to hear that Mary-Evelyn has been recognized for her years of service. "I was thrilled to hear she was receiving this recognition. There is no one more deserving," says Karen Ross, who served with Mary-Evelyn on the Alumni Council and the Board of Governors. "Her support of SMU through the gift of her time and talents has been invaluable and amazing."

In the years to come, this 70-year-old dynamo will continue to travel, spend time with her dog and her many friends, and continue dropping off cookies when she comes for campus visits!

A heartfelt thank you from everyone at Saint Mary's, MEV! ✧

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