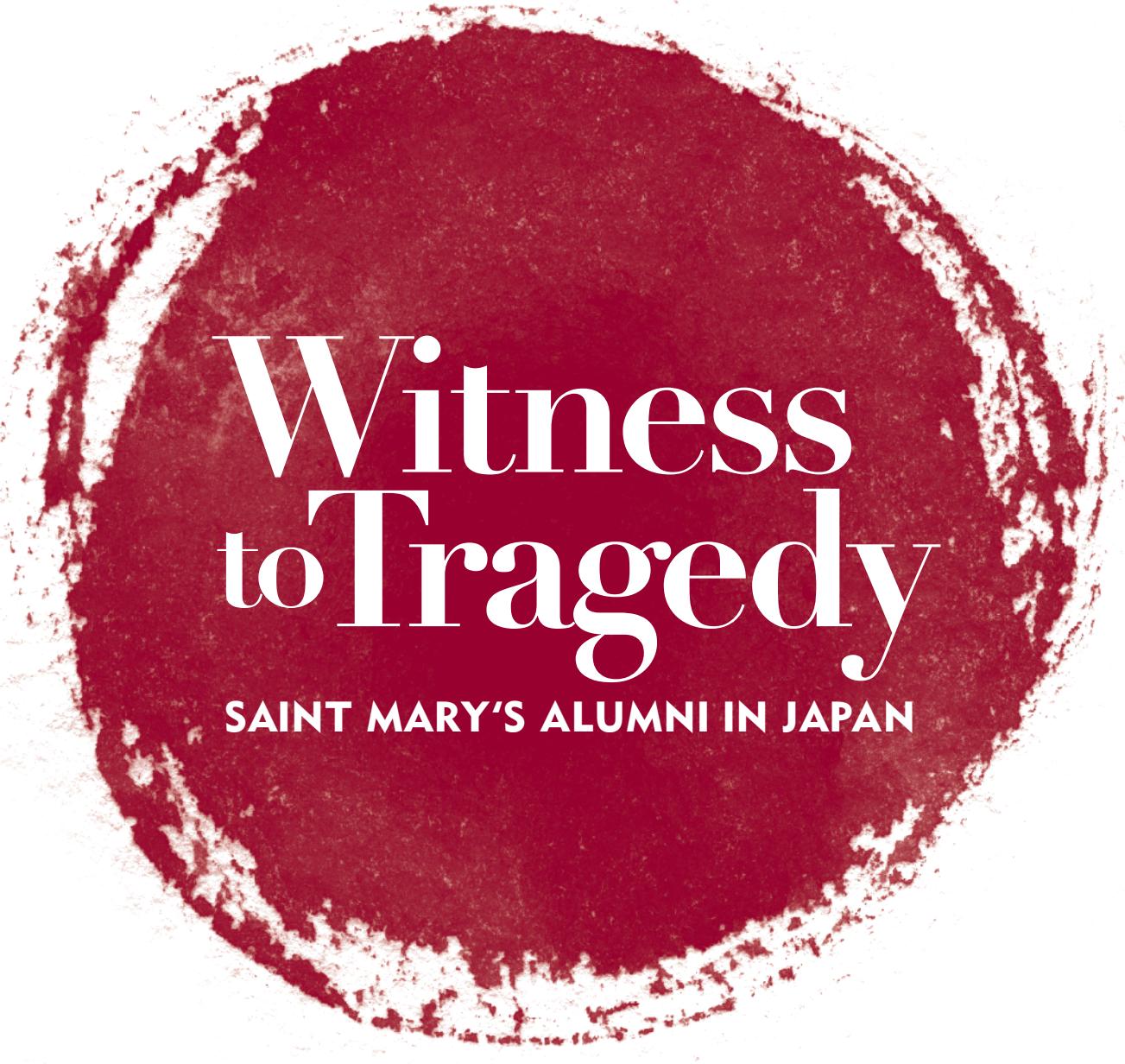




FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY



Witness to Tragedy

SAINT MARY'S ALUMNI IN JAPAN



Spotlight: International Development Studies (IDS)

Also: Dr. Alfonso Rojo • Marvelous McNally • Nice Guys Can Finish First

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President's Message



Springtime on Saint Mary's campus has an excitement and energy to it that is infectious. The flurry of finals, the anticipation of graduation and the warm weather truly bring campus to life. Our Alumni Association and Alumni Office are busy working on upcoming events including the annual Alumni Golf Tournament and Homecoming 2011 to keep our alumni engaged over the summer and into the fall. In fact, Homecoming 2011 will see some new events this year, including the *One World Alumni Dinner* where our alumni community can come together to support a charity founded by one of Saint Mary's very own.

Saint Mary's is proud to have over 40,000 alumni in 103 countries worldwide. This *Maroon and White* issue will look at those alumni and their families who were in Japan at the time of the earthquake and tsunami in the Tōhoku region. Saint Mary's has a long-standing connection with Japan, and we offer our heartfelt sympathies to those who have lost loved ones, suffered injuries and experienced shocking devastation since the March 11 tragedy.

Once again, I would like to encourage you to keep in touch with Saint Mary's, and we are always happy to help you discover new ways to become involved. Attending or organizing events in your area is a wonderful way to connect with other alumni. You can also send story ideas for *Maroon and White*, or apply to serve on Alumni Council. We are also looking for award nominees for the Alumni Awards that will be awarded during Homecoming 2011. Please visit us online at www.smu.ca/alumni or e-mail alumni@smu.ca for more details on how you can become more involved or nominate a fellow alumnus for an award.

Yours truly,

Greg Poirier (MBA '03)
President
Saint Mary's University Alumni Association

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Liquid Paper: In the Fall 2010 edition John "Jackie" Barrett's degree was identified incorrectly. He has a Bachelor of Commerce. In 10 Cool Things, the date of the Acadian Deportation should have been 1755.

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Spring 2011



- 2** Marvelous McNally
- 5** Reliving the Past
- 6** 10 Cool Things

Feature Article

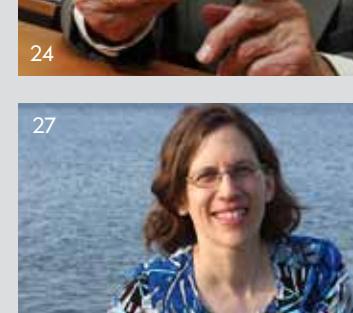
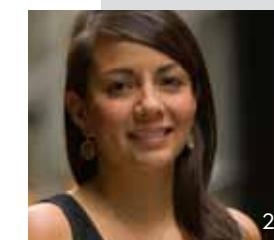
- 8** Witness to Tragedy: Saint Mary's Alumni in Japan

Spotlight: IDS

- 12** Making Renewable Energy a Reality
- 15** Who You Gonna Call?
- 16** Circle of Life
- 18** Finding the Right Path
- 20** Diverse Interests

In This Issue

- 22** Profile: Dr. Alfonso Rojo
- 25** Time for Wine
- 26** Saint Mary's Lands Top Aquatic Scientist
- 28** Alumni Events
- 31** Turning Points in Leadership
- 32** Making Homecoming Your Own
- 34** Nice Guys Can Finish First
- 37** Respecting the Power of Words
- 38** Stay Connected
- 39** A Huskie at Heart: Essay Contest
- 40** Capital Campaign Celebration
- 41** Empathy Factor: The Kids Want to Give
- 42** Snippets
- 44** In Memoriam
- 45** Saint Mary's Moment



Marvelous McNally

photo: Paul Darrow

The aging McNally Building gets a facelift.

When Gary Schmeisser sat down in 2005 and made a list of all the improvements required to return the aging McNally Building to its position as the academic hub of campus, he could not imagine that he would find the money to make them happen.

Yet in March of this year, the Director of Facilities Management was smiling widely as students, alumni, administrators and government officials gathered in the McNally auditorium to mark the near completion of a \$22.3-million renovation, McNally's share of a \$140-million investment in Saint Mary's University that has left no building untouched.

With over \$11 million received from Industry Canada's Knowledge Infrastructure Program and matching funds from the Province of Nova Scotia, improvements to the 175,000-square-foot building include: energy-efficient windows; upgrades to the electrical, water, ventilation and communications systems; and a complete overhaul of corridors, classrooms and offices.

"This project could have stayed in the planning process for years," says Gabrielle Morrison, Vice-President, Administration at Saint Mary's. The Industry Canada program "gave us the opportunity to put our plans in action."

The end result is a revitalized building that serves as an iconic image for the university and a touchstone for the entire province.

Inside the newly repointed grey stone walls and beyond the preserved oak panelling in the foyer is a world-class teaching and research space that boasts a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, an almost 20 per cent savings in energy and significant improvements in air quality and comfort for students, staff and faculty. "No more drafts and leaks or mould problems in the McNally," Morrison says proudly.



Workers replacing the roof of the McNally Building had a spectacular view of Halifax. photo: Paul Darrow

Despite two years of disruptions and the presence of up to 140 construction workers, everyone is pleased with the outcome. Dr. Adam Sarty, Acting Associate Dean of Science, praises the transformation of a space he called “the dungeon”—essentially a basement storage closet—into a modern lab where he can develop new radiation detectors for nuclear physics experiments.

Students also appreciate the increased natural light and bright, well-equipped classrooms.

“It makes us want to stay around longer and use the facilities,” says Caitlin Dix, Vice-President Academic of the Saint Mary’s University Students’ Association. Dix is quick to applaud the level of student input in the entire renovation, a consultative process that resulted in vastly improved technology and a much-needed global arts common.

Given the enthusiastic response to the renovations, it seemed only fitting that McNally should get some special tribute, so the University has launched the McNally microsite, www.smu.ca/mcnally/welcome, replete with interviews, archival photos and other colourful links to information on this sprawling structure’s storied past. Alumni, especially, will enjoy the microsite’s main attraction, an 11-minute video that chronicles the history of the building from its construction in 1951 as a combination residence and school. Video highlights include the recollections of proud alumni such as Nova Scotia Supreme Court Chief Justice Joe Kennedy, who attended Saint Mary’s from 1961 to 1965, and Paul Dyer, Regional Vice-President for Scotiabank, who arrived at McNally for the first time on a night in 1963 to find the

lone building on campus in total darkness and the front door locked.

A great deal has happened since March 30, 1951, when the headline of The Saint Mary’s Journal proclaimed McNally’s official opening was still on track for the following September. Photos featured on the microsite provide a glimpse into those early years: bunk bed-furnished residence rooms adorned with sports pennants, drafting tables and old wooden desks in long rows facing large blackboards, contemplative students putting pen to paper and round-fendered Fords and Chevys lining the building’s signature circular driveway.

That driveway remains, but the cars that line it are now smaller and more fuel efficient; laptops, computers and media screens have displaced pens, paper and blackboards; and the residence rooms have been gone for some time. McNally now houses the Faculty of Arts, the Division of Engineering and the Mathematics and Computing Science, Astronomy and Physics, and Psychology Departments, and there are very few people who recall that bunk beds once sat where desks are today.

McNally has always been a place of life-changing teaching and world-class research, but life and the world have moved on, and the stately old edifice needed to move on as well.

Dix credits the renovations with fostering a renewed sense of pride in the entire school. “We already know that (Saint Mary’s) is a great place,” she says. “This shows others that there are great things happening within these walls.” □



left: The Saint Mary's hockey team, date unknown (likely early 70s). right: The McNally Building under construction, from around 1951.



RELIVING THE PAST *...a mouse click away.*

Photos of former classmates, yearbooks from the 1970s, oral histories of retired faculty. These memory-stirring items are just a few of the fascinating items alumni can now access with a few clicks of a mouse.

The Saint Mary’s University Archives, housed in the Patrick Power Library, has created an online Institutional Repository. Many years in development, it is a web-based treasure trove of material related to the academic and social history of Saint Mary’s.

One of the core collections is a searchable database of well over 4,000 photographs. It includes everything from varsity sports teams to Drama Society productions to Art Gallery installations. It is also a chronicle of important landmarks in the university’s development from a small high school to a modern university. Reviewing the photos is a reminder of just how far Saint Mary’s has come.

This project is a work in progress, with more items being added all the time, and the sky’s the limit to how much it can hold. And you’re welcome to make a contribution to its growth. If you have any photographs, stories or interesting documents you would like to share, just get in contact with University Archivist Hansel Cook. Hansel can be reached at (902) 420-5508 or hansel.cook@smu.ca.

And there’s another way you can help. One of the biggest challenges with photographs is the identification of the

individuals featured in them. So if you’re browsing the collection and recognize people in a photo, please let us know. The same thing applies to unidentified events. What year did we stage Macbeth? Who was the wide receiver catching that pass?

The Institutional Repository is more than a collection of old photographs and historic documents. It is a permanent record of the lives of Saint Mary’s students and the thoughtful recollections of the professors who taught them and the staff who helped them.

Explore the repository on your own at www.library2.smu.ca □

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING? HERE ARE SOME INTERESTING FEATURES OF THE REPOSITORY:

- Sports Hall of Fame Induction Programs
- A comprehensive survey of the trees on our campus (there are more than 550 of them!)
- Copies of the University Yearbook dating back to 1921
- Faculty publications
- Student theses (an impressive quantity and variety)
- 50-year-old film of the men’s football team in action is now being uploaded

3M CHEERS FOR SARTY

Physics Professor Adam Sarty's innovative teaching methods earned him a place in the national spotlight in February when he was awarded a prestigious 3M National Teaching Fellowship. Judges praised Dr. Sarty — never shy to use items like a watermelon or bicycle tires to illustrate a point — for his superior ability to connect with students. He is the third Saint Mary's professor to be honoured with the award.

FOOTBALL LEGEND OFF TO HALL

Arguably one of the best athletes to ever come out of the University, quarterback Chris Flynn is headed to the Canadian Football Hall of Fame. Regarded by many as the most dominant player in the CIAU from 1987 to 1990, he led the Huskies to four AUAA championships and two Vanier Cup appearances. He was named to the Hall in February, but the official induction ceremony will take place in September in Calgary.

TESTING THE WATERS

Geography Professor Dr. Cathy Conrad is trying to make it easier for communities to monitor the quality of their water. With the help of a small team, she has developed an easy-to-use testing kit that allows ordinary people to get professional-quality results. The system is being tested in several communities in Nova Scotia and also in the Gambia. In April, her team and partners were awarded \$100,000 over five years to support community-based integrated water monitoring and management.

LOOKING INSIDE

The fossil cliffs at Joggins have been studied by geologists and paleontologists for close to two centuries. But a new initiative involving researchers from Saint Mary's University is showing there are still surprises to discover. Geology Professor Andrew MacRae and

his team have begun using CAT scanning to look deep inside samples of petrified trees to find the bones of tiny lizard-like animals that lived — and ultimately, died — in the rotting stumps 300 million years ago. Dr. MacRae said the creatures are an important link to the ancestry of all modern reptiles, birds and mammals, "which makes them pretty important creatures to understand."

will learn to apply knowledge from many disciplines to solve complex problems related to sustainability of the global environment in the face of human development. The curriculum includes such areas as environmental management, remote sensing, green chemistry, habitat conservation and environmental policy development.

Paul, who gave them to his daughter to look at. She noticed a light streak that the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada later confirmed was a magnitude 17 supernova in galaxy UGC 3378 in the constellation of Camelopardalis. Supernovas are stellar explosions that signal the violent deaths of stars several times the mass of our sun.

two of our student athletes took part in the Games; Chad Hagen was a Team Nova Scotia squash player, and Emma MacAulay was a member of the snowboard cross team. Marlon Solis and Amber Whyley, Saint Mary's students who created the winning design for use on the Winter Games medals, presented the first medals of the Games on February 12 at the Canada Games Oval.

The students are not only gratified by the opportunity to participate in potentially life-changing activities, but they also benefit by taking what they learn in the schools and incorporating it back into their studies as research related to community development. In addition to the many volunteer hours logged, the Faculty of Arts is providing continued funding to keep the initiative thriving.

LEROUX AND WESTERGARD RACK UP HONOURS

Two business students have taken home more than their share of awards in the last few months. Third-year finance and entrepreneurship student J.P. Leroux was recently identified as one of Canada's 36 most promising undergraduates and invited to take part in a mentorship program called The Next 36. In the program, Leroux will get personal mentoring from Canada's top entrepreneurs. Leroux was also the winner of the What's The Big Idea? Competition, sponsored by Saint Mary's University Business Development Centre. Accounting and Entrepreneurship major Louis Westergard was equally impressive. Just a couple of weeks after taking home the Frank H. Sobey Award for Business Excellence, Westergard entered the Innovacorp Innovative Ideas Competition, took first place in the province and took home \$5,000 cash. Westergard runs his own retail sports business and earned several academic awards.

NEW RITUAL CREATED

The Sobey Executive MBA Class of 2011 has introduced a Sobey EMBA Pledge and Ring Ceremony to send a clear message to new graduates about their role and responsibility in preserving the program's impressive reputation. The program was founded in 1990. From now on, every graduate of the Sobey Executive MBA program will take the pledge and receive a custom-designed ring. □



The new water-monitoring kit developed by Dr. Cathy Conrad will allow rural communities to accurately test local water sources.

SCHOOL OF THE ENVIRONMENT ESTABLISHED

Saint Mary's University's commitment to sustainability was bolstered this spring with the establishment of a School of the Environment. The school will be the hub for environmental education on campus, bringing together students and professors from all programs that are explicitly environmental in focus. In the school, students

REACHING OUT, LOOKING UP

Observatory Technician Dave Lane played an integral role in the New Year's Eve discovery of a supernova by 10-year-old Kathryn Aurora Gray of Fredericton. Gray became the youngest person to discover a supernova when the star's demise was captured on one of dozens of images made by Lane at his backyard observatory in Stillwater Lake. The images were emailed to Gray's father,

PUTTING OUT THE WELCOME MAT

Saint Mary's faculty, staff and students got a close look at high-performance athletics in February as the university hosted the judo and squash events during the Canada Winter Games. A regulation squash court with glass sides was assembled inside the Tower gymnasium for the first week of the Games, then removed to make way for judo mats. Dozens of staff and students acted as volunteers, and

PATHWAYS TO OPPORTUNITIES

Saint Mary's students have played an integral role in the success of Pathways to Education, a new program dedicated to reducing high school dropout rates in a socio-economically challenged part of the city. Volunteering as tutors for Spryfield-area students challenged by poverty, insufficient resources and a lack of focus on education, students get to see how the material they work on in the classroom translates to real life.

Witness to Tragedy

By Suzanne Robicheau

It takes more than an earthquake to shake the resolve of Saint Mary's alumni in Japan.

Geoffrey Brown (BA, Psychology '97) has experienced dozens of earthquakes in the 13 years that he has lived in Japan, but nothing prepared the Saint Mary's graduate for the 8.9-magnitude earthquake and devastating tsunami that hit that country March 11.

"We were all lucky," he says, speaking of Saint Mary's alumni who have made their homes in the Tokyo area. "At one point, most of us lived up north in the hard-hit prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima."

The director of the Shirogane International School in Tokyo, Brown was at work when the tremors began. Fortunately, it was late in the afternoon, and the students had all gone home.

"I fled with two Japanese staff members to a flat section of boardwalk near the entrance to Tokyo University," he says.

"It was a scene from a horror movie. I was trying to call my girlfriend, and ginkgo trees and power lines were swaying, and the pavement began to undulate under my feet."

"I looked into the street and I could see the shocked looks on the faces of drivers as their cars bounced up and down."

On the other side of the city, Nate Gildart (BA '95) had stopped for fast food on the way to rehearse with his band in central Tokyo.

"I was standing in line when I felt the first tremors," recalls Gildart, who teaches high school history at the American School in Tokyo and heads up the Japan chapter of Saint Mary's Alumni Association.

A native of Lower Sackville, N.S., Gildart has lived in Japan for 15 years. Like Brown, he understands that earthquakes are a fact of life, but he knew in a heartbeat that there was something different about this one.

"After the first jolt, they usually subside," he says, "but this one intensified to the point that I thought the restaurant was about to collapse."

Gildart ran outside, where trees were shaking, bikes were falling over, parked cars were rocking back and forth and a three-storey signpost was swaying.

"It was like being in a boat on rough seas," he recalls. "You could feel the ground underneath you moving in waves."

As others raced outside from neighbouring buildings, Gildart tried in vain to call his wife, Yuka, and his brother, Sam (BComm '93) who lives 30 minutes south of Tokyo, in Yokohama.

Sam was in the shower when his apartment building began to shake. The lights went out, the water stopped, and he had to edge his way down seven flights of stairs in the dark,

Alumnus Nate Gildart has travelled to the earthquake and tsunami-ravaged area of Japan on several occasions. He says the damage is indescribable, even when you see it with your own eyes.

but Nate wouldn't learn any of this for another six hours. While waiting for word from his brother, he turned on the TV to see live coverage of the first tsunami washing away cars on the northeast coast.

"Japan's emergency broadcasts are second to none," says Fraser Gould (BA '96). Gould teaches at a university in Tokyo and has lived in Japan for 12 years.

When the main jolt threatened to collapse the home he was visiting, Gould rushed out the door.

"It didn't feel much safer outside," he says. "Power lines were whipping back and forth, and the ground underneath my feet was rolling. It was like standing on an inner tube on a choppy ocean."

With all of the rail lines down, he walked for 2½ hours through a constant barrage of aftershocks to get home. Once there, he spent the next few days trying to contact family and friends using social media such as Facebook.

Downed phone lines also sent Nate Gildart to social media sites.

"I'm not big on Facebook," he says. "It's hard to believe how much time I've spent on it since March 11."

In the absence of regular forms of communication, it was only through Facebook and other social networking sites that Saint

Mary's Tokyo-based alumni could communicate with their families; it was the way Gould — who had lived in Sendai for four years — would discover that one of his closest friends was safe, but that her mother had perished in the tsunami.

Even in the face of shattered infrastructure, empty store shelves and a radiation scare at the Daiichi nuclear plant in Fukushima, the safety of loved ones was foremost in the minds of Saint Mary's alumni in the days after the earthquake.

Tokyo escaped relatively unscathed, but concern for those in the northeast mounted with media images of ships stacked on collapsed roofs, fishing boats snared in a tangle of power lines, and cars lodged on rooftops or bobbing in water.

For Sam Gildart, who lived in Sendai for five years, the rising death toll was all too personal. Hundreds of bodies were found buried in rubble in an area where he had once taught; he spent most of his weekends at the port of Hachinohe, where a tidal wave

tossed vessels ashore like broken matchsticks; and his rival rugby team is based in Tagajo, a port town where the air was thick with smoke for days following the tsunami.

As Japan's tragedy touches hearts around the world, relief efforts of many kinds have begun. While some individuals fold a thousand paper cranes in a symbol of hope called Senbazuru, others like Nate Gildart are hitching their hopes for Japan's recovery to music.



"Power lines were whipping back and forth, and the ground underneath my feet was rolling."

Gildart has written a song that he plans to record with his band and sell on iTunes to support earthquake survivors, and at the end of March, he raised about \$3,000 at an impromptu concert.

"I planned it as a solo," he says, "but ended up jamming out (the music) of Spirit of the West, Great Big Sea and Stan Rogers with two other Canadians and a Brit."

The song was played during a May 8 fundraising concert held at a pub in Tokyo. Gildart and his band were joined by Saint Mary's alumnus David Juteau (Masters in Education in Curriculum Studies [Teaching English as a Second Language] Saint Mary's/Mount Saint Vincent University, 2004). Juteau, a Tokyo resident, is raising money for the Canadian Red Cross with Rise Up and Share Your Love, a moving montage of music and earthquake images he posted on YouTube.

With over 14,500 dead, 11,000 missing and seismologists predicting months of violent aftershocks, it might seem like a good time for the alumni to return to Canada. But from all reports it will take more than an earthquake to weaken their resolve to remain in Japan.

"The cherry blossoms are out now," Sam Gildart writes in an email dated April 3, a few days after Japan's Meteorological Agency — the same organization that monitors earthquakes — announced the annual blossoming of the country's national flower.

Many of the festivities that normally follow this announcement have been cancelled for this year, but the blossoms themselves remain a beacon.

"They're magnificent," he says. "Hope is here." □



Saint Mary's alumnus, Nate Gildart (red jacket with the blue guitar strap) delivers some Maritime favourites to raise more than \$3,000 for earthquake relief at an impromptu busking event at Omiya Station, Saitama Prefecture (near Tokyo).

Exchange Students All Safe

The earthquake hit Japan on March 11 at 2:45 a.m. Halifax time.

Within 12 hours, Miyuki Arai, Project Manager-International Mobility with Saint Mary's Office of International Activities, was relieved to have been able to confirm the safety of the seven Saint Mary's students studying in Japan this year.

"When I saw the first few scenes following the disaster, I was speechless," says Arai.

"The gravity of the aftermath was beyond belief. Our students were not hurt but they were very worried about friends in the affected areas. I was worried as well as I have family members in Japan."

There are 23 Japanese students attending Saint Mary's TESL Centre now, and the university has strong connections with Japan. As Arai says, this tragedy hits close to home for everyone.

Spotlight: IDS

Finding Solutions for Inequity

There are no simple answers to complex problems. The International Development Studies program at Saint Mary's University has led the way in facing this truth with an interdisciplinary approach that includes political science, economics, social analysis and religious studies.

"The massive global problems on a world scale that we're dealing with will require an integration of disciplinary approaches due to the nature, scope and scale of the problem," explains IDS Co-ordinator Dr. Anthony O'Malley.

Dr. O'Malley says Saint Mary's offered the first graduate interdisciplinary IDS program in Canada. The master's program may soon be joined by another leading program, an interdisciplinary PhD. The doctoral proposal is being reviewed by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

Undergraduate students are also benefiting from IDS. Since 1988, from 1,200 to 1,500 students have majored in the program. At both the undergraduate and graduate level, students engage in rigorous research surrounding the "development dilemma."

"The central problem of all development is poverty," Dr. O'Malley says. "The second problem is the deeply offensive situation where a portion of the world, usually the smaller portion, lives in what might be termed unimaginable luxury, and the majority of the world lives in various stages of deprivation."

IDS faculty and students' research on the causes of this inequality can be used by policy-makers at home and abroad to develop informed solutions. International faculty collaborations and field research in Latin America, Southeast Asia, India, Africa, and other places provide invaluable perspectives. Students have the opportunity to embrace this experience beginning at the undergraduate level.

"Students can't fully understand the nature and scope of development problems without actually getting into the real world," Dr. O'Malley says. "So we created courses whereby they can get credit for an overseas posting with an NGO, say in Africa or Latin America."

In this edition of *Maroon and White* we look at their adventures and the impact some of those grads are having on the world.

MAKING Renewable Energy A REALITY

By Cathy Von Kintzel



above: Brennan Vogel advocates for changes in provincial policies related to energy and the environment. photo: Paul Darrow

In Brennan Vogel's ideal world, he would flip a light switch knowing the power was coming from renewable sources such as wind, sun and water.

This is not just a daydream for the holder of a master's in International Development Studies from Saint Mary's University (2010). It's an opportunity and a daily goal in his work as energy and climate change co-ordinator at the Ecology Action Centre in Halifax.

"Every day, I work towards making renewable energy more of a reality right here in Nova Scotia," says Vogel.

"The potential for sustainable economic development and domestic energy security from renewable energy is really inspiring."

Now in its 40th year, the Ecology Action Centre is an environmental non-governmental organization, often

viewed as the go-to voice on environmental issues in Nova Scotia.

Vogel, who has worked with the centre since April 2010, takes pride in its history and feels a great responsibility to continue its work — not only on the job but in his own life.

He takes the bus or rides his bike to work at the centre's eco-friendly head office at 2705 Fern Lane in the heart of Halifax. His work surroundings are a daily reminder of his goals. The building is a refurbished home, built in the 1800s. Local products, including sustainably harvested wood and recycled and non-toxic products, were used wherever possible.

"Every day, I work towards making renewable energy more of a reality right here in Nova Scotia."

Solar panels on the roof heat water and supply in-floor radiant heating. Overhead lighting is seldom used during the day because extra time and research went into the best use of daylight.

Vogel's work includes advocating for changes in provincial policies related to energy and the environment. His three key focuses are energy efficiency and conservation; renewable energy and electricity; and greenhouse gas reduction, particularly in the electricity sector.

Fittingly, his master's thesis analyzed Canada's international development policies through a climate-change lens.

"That ties in pretty nicely with my work now," says Vogel, who also holds a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from University of Waterloo in Ontario.

"I think it's important to recognize that the decisions we make here in Canada today are laying the future foundations for the kind of world we as a global society will live in tomorrow."

Vogel, who grew up in a rural community near London, Ont., says there are incredible opportunities to build a low-carbon society that is less reliant on coal and oil.

For this 31-year-old father of two young children, it's about placing the needs of future generations in the forefront, while also meeting today's need to ensure domestic energy and food security and prosperity.

He has hope that Nova Scotia is on the right path and believes in celebrating successes.

Regionally, Vogel is inspired by Halifax Regional Municipality's leadership with its community solar project. The \$5-million proposed pilot program would encourage individual homeowners to install solar panels for heating hot water.

Locally, provincially and beyond, Vogel says, "a lot of policies exist in principle. The hard part is to make them reality. That takes moving beyond the business-as-usual status quo."

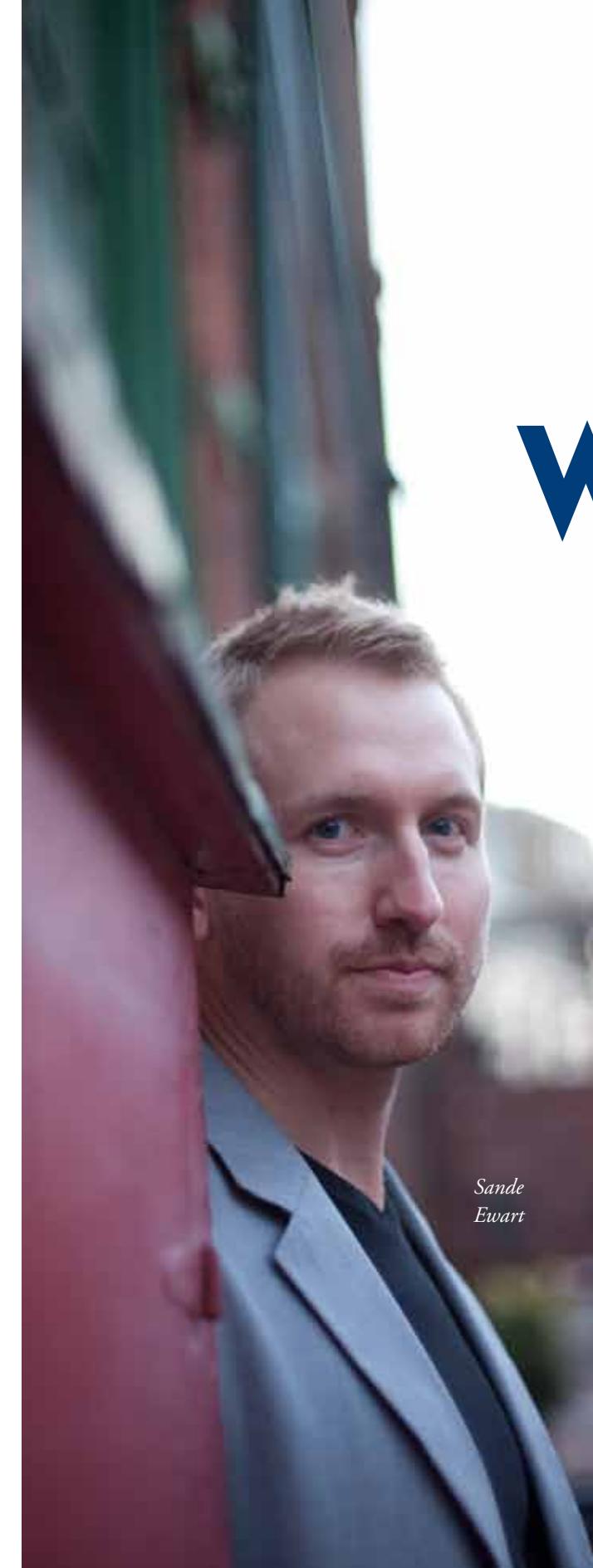
For example, the province of Nova Scotia has set a target of generating 25 per cent of its power from renewable sources by 2015, and 40 per cent by 2020.

Vogel has called on the provincial government to better articulate how it intends to meet those goals. He's also weighed in on other hot-button issues such as the biomass debate, urging the province to re-examine the sustainability of using large-scale forest biomass as a way to reach short-term renewable energy targets.

For him, it comes down to acting or reacting.

"Hopefully, we can be proactive in transforming to a low-carbon society. By making those choices now and by moving society in that direction, we will save ourselves a lot of heartache," he said, noting the potential for rolling blackouts and \$5-per-litre fuel as a result of peak oil and growing global competition for energy resources.

"Hopefully, we can get it right, starting today." □



WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

By Cathy Von Kintzel

Sande Ewart is never quite sure when he'll get the call, the call that leads to 10-hour days of monitoring unrest or upheaval in a Central American country.

Like the one in June 2009, when his boss called him at home with news of a coup in Honduras.

"Canada was quite involved in trying to work out a solution," says Ewart, a policy analyst with Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada.

"That was an extremely busy time, and it got a lot of focus."

It can be hard to predict what the next international crisis will be and whether it will be in Ewart's neck of the woods. His focus is bilateral relations between Canada and a number of Central American countries. In part, his job involves compiling background research, monitoring new developments and preparing briefing information for ministers and others who may be involved in bilateral discussions and meetings.

It's particularly important work when things heat up politically. The coup in Honduras was one of his higher-profile projects.

But, after 2½ years, Ewart still considers himself to be fairly low level in the department. It is, nevertheless, an interesting place to be. He could easily spend a day corresponding with Canadian diplomatic missions in Central America and with colleagues at the Organization of American States in Washington.

The 32-year-old Ottawa resident enjoys the work, thriving in the busy times and delving into fascinating issues. The work also involves occasional travel, often to work with Canadian embassies abroad.

"Sometimes, it's hard work, but it's rewarding at the end of the day," he says. "I think the most rewarding part of my work is knowing that I'm working on something that matters. Even when the work gets a bit dry, I have the feeling that if I had called in sick that day, something important wouldn't have gotten done."

Originally from Saint John, N.B., Ewart holds a Master's Degree in International Development Studies from Saint Mary's (2008).

"My studies at (Saint Mary's) certainly gave me a head start in getting where I am today and in creating a career path focused on international issues."

Ewart travelled to El Salvador to research his thesis on access to clean drinking water in rural communities.

"There are many good experiences in seeing other parts of the world that are completely different from our own reality," he says. "Coming from Canada and thinking about the abundance of water and plenty of access . . . we have no understanding of the challenges people face in other countries."

Back home in Ottawa, Ewart is looking forward to a new chapter in his life. He's getting married this summer to fiancée Myha. □



Circle of Life

By Cathy Von Kintzel

The birth of her daughter in 2009 has led Nadine Miville to reassess her career path.

In a wonderful and almost unexpected way, life, education and work are beginning to form a circle in Nadine Miville's world.

That world is being shaped in part by her experiences as a new mother, her new vocation as a doula and her Master's Degree in International Development Studies from Saint Mary's (2008). The result is a new-found desire to pursue a career focused on infant and maternal health at an international level.

"My whole journey through pregnancy and childbirth was quite transformative," says Miville, who had a natural childbirth at home with a midwife. "I want to pay it forward."

The Ottawa-area resident, originally from Oromocto, N.B., was working for a non-governmental organization called the Canadian Council for International Co-operation before she gave birth to her daughter on July 23, 2009. The council, established in 1968, monitors and analyzes federal policies on foreign affairs, aid, trade and defence.

Miville was an assistant on a project about charity law for 18 months, during which time she facilitated workshops for NGOs and shone a light on government policies on charity law.

In recent months, she's taken a new direction, becoming certified in childbirth education, in breastfeeding education and as a doula. She's set up a business called Healthy Beginnings (www.healthybeginnings.ca) with another woman, who was her childbirth educator.

"With a young daughter, I didn't want to go back to work full time right away," says Miville.

As a doula and educator, Miville focuses on the emotional and physical support of pregnant women, particularly Muslim women, with whom she shares a background. Her clients tell her she's a calming presence and very reassuring to them.

It's evident in the soft-spoken way she talks about her life, her family and her work.

The 30-year-old lives in Aylmer, about 15 minutes from downtown Ottawa, with her husband, Mohamed, and daughter, Safiya, in a three-bedroom, semi-detached home in a quiet neighbourhood.

The interior is colourfully painted in greens, reds and blues and has a Moroccan flair. Miville describes it as a cosy space where long couches with ornate pillows beckon friends to sit, relax and spend some time.

Miville did some field research in Morocco while at Saint Mary's. Her thesis was on the impact of informal

religious education on women in development in Morocco. She met her husband in Morocco and also got married there.

Rounding everything out, Miville has been thinking more and more about returning to work in the field of international development.

"I would like to focus on reproductive, maternal and infant health," she says. "It's something I'm very passionate about. If I could contribute on a local level with my own business and on an international level on a full-time basis, that would be very fulfilling."

Her "dream-come-true" job would be to work in her new field for an organization like UNICEF, balancing her two passions.

Yet she knows such work requires careful consideration of world cultures, beliefs and differences. That's the only "iffy" part for her.

"I feel quite reluctant to represent a 'right way' of doing things," she explains. "My background in anthropology as well as my experiences overseas have taught me that there is much more to learn from others versus the other way around. It is very humbling to realize this, and I consider it carefully in my career choices."

Her challenge is finding a way to bring it all together.

Below her email signature, Miville quotes Dr. Grantly Dick-Read, a British obstetrician often regarded as the father of the natural childbirth movement.

He said: "The childbirth practices of a nation are reflections of that nation's beliefs concerning the integrity and dignity of life and influence that nation for good or evil, and ultimately the world itself."

Miville loves the quote because "it sums up everything my work boils down to. I truly believe that we model our feelings about the dignity of human life through our birth practices." □

Finding the

Right Path

By Cathy Von Kintzel



Julie Self

Julie Self considers herself one of the lucky people who've been able to tap into their values, talents and interests and wind up with a fulfilling job.

The Nova Scotia native, now living in Edmonton, is a surface water policy specialist with Alberta's Ministry of Environment. She leads the advancement of a wetland management policy that ultimately seeks to ensure conservation of that province's wetlands.

"Wetlands play a vital role in the ecosystem," with regard to water quality, wildlife habitat, ground water recharge and recreation and educational opportunities, says Self, 34.

The work includes research and analysis as well as working with leading stakeholders to plan policy implementation and participate in the approval and implementation process.

"My experience with the Alberta government has afforded me the rare opportunity to be intimately involved in the evolution of this significant water policy from inception to implementation."

A graduate of Saint Mary's International Development Studies program (2010), Self received the Gold Medal (Morrison Medal) at convocation for exceptional thesis fieldwork design and empirical research at the graduate level. Her thesis and coursework focused on water management issues in southern Africa. She lived in Zambia from 2007 to 2008, working with a non-governmental organization for six months and spending five months conducting qualitative research in low-income communities.

"My research provided invaluable first-hand exposure to the challenges of water scarcity, and I was humbled by the generosity of communities willing to spend time to help me understand their lives, their culture and the daily challenges they face in accessing water."

Self always sought a career that aligned with her values and interests, but her path wasn't straight. She initially enrolled in a hospitality management program to follow her interest in places and people, then switched to a general business degree to develop and use her analytical and problem-solving skills.

"I became increasingly conscious of the disparities that exist in our world," she says. "I found that neither path seemed to satisfy my desire to contribute to the well-being of others in society."

Enrolment in an undergraduate course on globalization, food security and freshwater scarcity in 2004 fundamentally changed the way she viewed the world and her role in it.

Since then, she's sought opportunities to learn about and contribute to the management of various effects of what she describes as an impending or ongoing fresh water shortage.

"It's my goal to play a leadership role in the development and implementation of water management policy and programs

in water scarce areas of Canada and sub-Saharan Africa," she says. Her ambition is to also contribute to Canadian and international freshwater policies.

Self recently returned from Australia, where she was part of a six-member Rotary Foundation Group Study Exchange. The intent was to provide young leaders in their fields, ages 25 to 40, with an opportunity to gain experience and develop networks in their respective vocations.

"My goals were to really look at water policy development in a water-scarce environment and (at) the experiences of people impacted by that policy and by water scarcity in general," she says. "The Murray-Darling river basin is just emerging from a 10-year drought and is quite well-known for its water problems. It was an extraordinary opportunity."

"It's important to develop practical policies that take into consideration environmental, industrial, community and individual needs," Self says.

"You have to consider all of the pieces of the puzzle. If a farmer uses water for irrigation, you can't just cut it off to meet a water conservation objective. You have to look at the issue holistically."

Self grew up in West Pennant, a fishing village about 40 minutes from downtown Halifax, and she still calls Nova Scotia home.

Wherever she is, she strives to keep her surroundings positive by decorating with things that make her smile or laugh. Her surroundings also reflect her love of international travel.

In her spare time, Self enjoys biking, gardening, cooking, being outdoors and volunteering, with a particular interest in alleviating poverty or the effects of poverty in Canada and abroad. □



By Cathy Von Kintzel

From her days growing up in Honduras, to her studies in Nova Scotia and now her work in Montreal, Christine Estrada is seeing the world through enlightened eyes.

Estrada is a program assistant at the United Nations Secretariat Convention on Biological Diversity, headquartered in Montreal.

"It's an exciting time for the convention, with the adoption of the new Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources," says Estrada.

The 29-year-old Saint Mary's graduate was in Japan for the Protocol's adoption in October 2010. She was there serving the 10th Conference of Parties to the Convention.

"There is plenty of work to be done, and it heralds a big step in the environmental movement."

The Nagoya Protocol is an international agreement aimed at fairly and equitably sharing the benefits from the use of the world's genetic resources. That is one of the main objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is an international treaty to sustain the diversity of life on Earth.

"It's very exciting to sit with ministers of environment, all gathered in a room, and witness decisions made that will affect millions of lives, as well as the state of the environment," Estrada says. She saw a willingness on the part of countries to step up and set ambitious, yet hopefully achievable, targets.

The United Nations General Assembly has also declared 2011-2020 as the UN Decade on Biodiversity.

As one of three program assistants to the executive secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Estrada's work includes organizing events and serving as co-ordinator for various projects and activities. These include the Consortium of Scientific Partners and the Consortium of Universities, and assisting the Donor Task Force.

While in Japan last fall, Estrada was responsible for organizing the second edition of the Global Private Donor Forum. This side event gathered prominent figures including actor/activist Harrison Ford, Monique Barbut from the Global Environment Facility and

"There are so many rewards at so many levels," Estrada says of her work.

"The global spectrum of my job has definitely sharpened my diplomatic and communication skills . . . especially working in a multicultural setting."

"I feel a great fulfilment working for an environmental cause, which aims for the conservation and preservation of our fragile environment."

Other aspects of her job include representing the executive secretary at official events, meetings and

Diverse Interests

James Gibbons from Discovery Channel Asia. The project highlighted the importance of private-sector involvement in conservation efforts.

Born and raised in Tegucigalpa, Estrada received her Master's from Saint Mary's International Development Studies program in 2008.

"My experience at (Saint Mary's) was my first experience abroad, so it was a combination of cultural shock, forced adaptation and, ultimately, a moment of self-definition," she says.

"Although it was challenging at first, those two years quickly turned into an amazing adventure that opened up the world for me. I met amazing people from all over the world, and it solidified my professional and personal aspirations."

Estrada's work takes her to exciting places. She also travels on her own time, preferring adventure travel, such as backpacking to remote areas, particularly in the Middle East or Asia. This year, she's thinking about exploring her beloved Central America.

hosting visiting delegates. She also prepares background documents, statements and research papers and works with other program officers on events, celebrations, documents and activities.

In her spare time, Estrada is a volunteer Latin dance instructor at the downtown YMCA in Montreal. She's fluent in Spanish and English and is working on her French. She completed her first half-marathon last year and has a passion for the performing arts, music and photography.

Her home and her office reflect her passion for travel and art. At home in her bachelor apartment, she is surrounded by paintings, prints and souvenirs from her travels.

Estrada is not entirely sure about her future, as she claims to not be much of a planner. And working with an organization like the UN makes it very easy to move. She's moved quite a bit in the past four to five years, including to Panama, where she carried out a diplomatic internship with a regional environmental organization.

"My objective in life is to try to live a full and content life." □



At 90, Dr. Alfonso Rojo is still writing books and getting his papers published. As a professor emeritus, he still comes to Saint Mary's almost every day.

Dr. Alfonso ROJO

A SCHOLAR AND A GENTLEMAN

By Mark Campbell

It's a cold January morning, and professor emeritus Dr. Alfonso Rojo has arrived at Saint Mary's University's Sciences Building, much to the delight of his colleagues.

They've gathered to celebrate his 90th birthday, and everyone is eager to say hello or shake his hand. Through small, everyday gestures, each conveys considerable esteem for the man they regard as the father of Saint Mary's Biology Department.

It was almost 50 years ago that Dr. Rojo joined the University's faculty. Born and raised in Burgos, Spain, he had been to Canada in 1954 to study the Spanish fishery on the Grand Banks. That led to a contract with the federal government to study the fisheries of the Great Lakes.

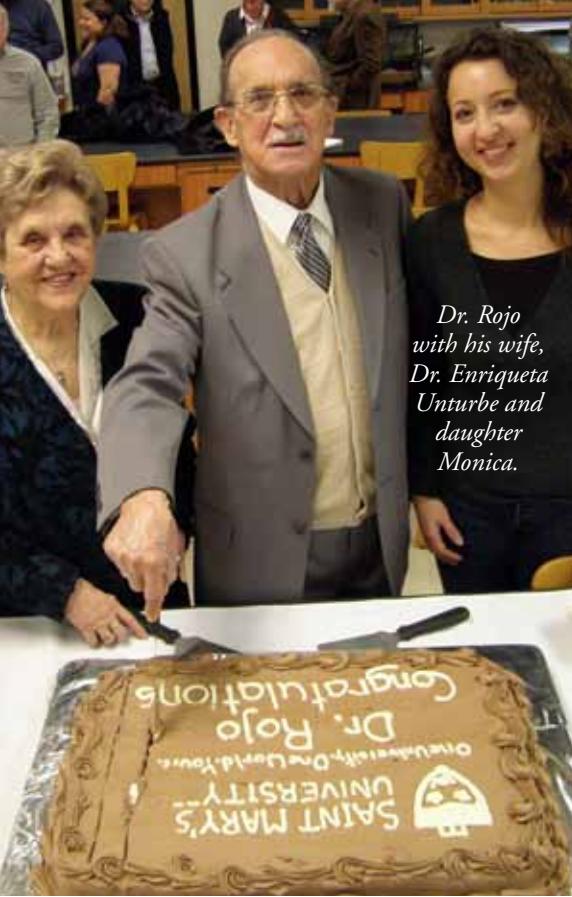
Eventually, he realized his heart was in teaching — his first profession. He received many offers from universities across North America, but Saint Mary's was the one that most appealed to him. And he became the first professional biologist with a university degree to teach biology here.

"My wife, Dr. Enriqueta Unturbe, who was working at the University of Western Ontario, and I decided to remain in Canada, it being a more conservative country," says Dr. Rojo.

Dr. Rojo remembers his first year clearly, delivering lectures in a cramped space in the McNally Building with a bare minimum of teaching aids, some of which he made or purchased himself.

It soon became clear that most of his students planned to become biologists and teachers, not doctors. So he approached the Dean of Studies with an idea. The University could offer a biology program with two additional courses the following year, hire a second professor and retain these students. As it turned out, the professor Saint Mary's hired was Dr. Unturbe — the first full-time female professor at the University.

"My place of work was really a family affair," says Dr. Rojo, who also taught Spanish classes with his wife from 1962 to 1963. "My wife worked across the hall from me for 27 years. I also have fond and proud memories of watching all three of my children graduate with a total of four degrees from Saint Mary's University."



Dr. Rojo with his wife, Dr. Enriqueta Unturbe and daughter Monica.

Now a part-time professor of Spanish at Saint Mary's, Monica Rojo recalls that after school, she would sometimes watch her father, Dr. Alfonso Rojo, teach classes:

It didn't matter that the university level was years ahead of me, I was immersed in the class and what was being taught from the moment my dad would begin teaching.

He would explain something, show a slide picture, then go over to the board and draw a diagram with key words. He'd ask the students questions about what he had just explained, offer them a real sample to pass around and look at and then end with a brief review of the material he had explained. I remember thinking what a great teaching method — he used every element he could to help a student understand and he did it seamlessly and expertly.

He was also very present and engaged with his students during the class. When they made a face of confusion, he would offer further explanation until he saw that they understood, or he would ask them basic questions that, as they answered, would guide them towards understanding. And if that weren't perfect enough, he never failed to make them laugh.

Not only is my dad a very learned and knowledgeable man, he was, and is, exceptional at passing on his knowledge.

His daughter, Monica (Honours BA '92), has been a part-time professor of Spanish at the University since 1995.

By the late '60s, there were six biology professors on staff, delivering 14 courses. It was clear to all that the McNally Building could no longer accommodate what the Jesuit administrators of the time called the "smelly sciences." So in 1966, the University broke ground for a new building that would house the Chemistry and Biology departments, and Dr. Rojo played a key role in its design.

"Without him, we wouldn't have that building," says Dr. David Richardson, dean emeritus. "He also had the foresight to ensure it had labs large enough to accommodate the growth of the student population. And he had considerable energy because he and his wife effectively started the university's Spanish Department, which joined with French and Latin to eventually become the Department of Modern Languages and Classics. So he had a vital role in the development of both the arts and sciences faculties at Saint Mary's."

Dr. Rojo's influence continues to be felt on campus, even though he is retired. You can find him in his office almost every day, working on new research papers for scientific journals, or in the faculty lounge, tutoring Spanish students and debating the issues of the day with his colleagues. Often, he's at the Museum of Natural History continuing

his work on fish biology. It's a routine he's maintained since he retired 25 years ago and demonstrates how much pleasure he continues to derive from intellectual pursuits.

"I enjoy doing it, even with no salary, just a few grants. Besides, I live close to campus, I am in very good health and I continue to enjoy the company and conversation of my colleagues both at the University and at the museum."

During his retirement he's published two biology books, 14 biology papers and a collection of short stories about Spanish-speaking immigrants.

And he shows no signs of slowing down. Dr. Rojo is working on a paper exploring the names given to fish bones since 1850 and writing his memoirs at the request of his family. But on this, the morning of his birthday celebration, he has something else in mind. He announces his intention to write an article on the many similarities between the evolution of plants and animals and the evolution of languages.

Then, he catches himself. "To do a scientific paper linking both specialties is probably too formidable a task to handle. It would probably require two specialists."

You can't help but hope the sparkle in his eye and his keen intellect suggest otherwise. □



Time for Wine celebrated its 10th Anniversary on February 4, 2011. Current and past chairs were thanked for their leadership, outstanding effort and desire to help students achieve an education. left to right: Kathy Naulls (2011), Dinah Grace (2007-2009), Shelley Hessian (2010), Carol Dodds (2002-2007).

Time FOR Wine

Since Time for Wine was first held in 2002, the wine-tasting fundraiser has become a fixture on the calendar of Saint Mary's supporters.

This year's edition, held in the Loyola Conference Hall, saw more than 175 alumni and friends sample 33 wines and bid on more than 90 auction items.

The evening raised over \$9,000 which brings the cumulative 10-year fundraising total to over \$90,000, which has been directed to students in need. In the past, funds have supported single-parent students, but adapting to the changing needs of today's students, the Alumni Association created an Alumni Emergency Student Bursaries Fund to help those students in extreme crisis.

"Time for Wine is a great community event, run and organized by an alumni team, focused on meeting the

needs of current students at Saint Mary's University," says Chair Kathy Naulls. "It has been a pleasure to be part of the team."

There were many private toasts made between friends during the evening, but there was a very public toast made by Alumni Association President Greg Poirier to honour the four women who have guided the event through the past decade.

Carol Dodds was the inaugural chair and spearheaded the event for six years. She handed the reins over to Dinah Grace who guided the growth of the event for three years. Shelly Hessian was the chair in 2010 and Kathy Naulls, a member of the organizing committee from the very beginning took over the role of chair in 2011. □

By Blake Patterson

SAINT MARY'S LANDS TOP AQUATIC SCIENTIST

Linda Campbell



Last year, she was named one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40. This year, she's coming to Saint Mary's to help conserve the region's lakes, rivers and oceans.

Dr. Linda Campbell, currently a Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Aquatic Ecosystem Health at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., will join the Faculty of Science at Saint Mary's this July.

"Nova Scotians are lucky to have some of the most amazing fresh and saltwater ecosystems right on their doorsteps. I'm really looking forward to getting out and exploring," said Dr. Campbell, whose research looks at how "stressors" like metal contaminants and invasive species influence aquatic environments, and thereby, human and environmental health.

When she arrives, she plans to meet with researchers from Atlantic Canada to discuss how contamination with metals such as mercury and arsenic — from man-made and natural sources — presents ongoing concerns for human and ecosystem health in the region. She wants to determine how her research efforts can contribute to solutions.

"I want to point out that metals and other contaminants can affect both human and ecosystem health in many ways, ranging from moderately reduced fertility to serious diseases," she said. "It is important to quantify the amount and the impact of those contaminants in our lakes and rivers."

As a faculty member of the environmental studies program at Saint Mary's, she also plans to continue her research specialty of investigating invasive and non-native species in lakes and how they are affecting food web dynamics and the environment.

It's research her students will certainly enjoy — especially the field work.

"Field work is the highlight for both me and my students," said Dr. Campbell. "Yes, you need to get the lab work done, but being out in the field sampling biota, talking to local people and getting a wider picture of ongoing concerns is really a significant part of managing contaminant problems."

In addition to joining the university community, Dr. Campbell, who is deaf, looks forward to joining the vibrant deaf community in Halifax — one that includes deaf and hard of hearing students at Saint Mary's, many of whom receive support from the Atlantic Centre of Research, Access and Support for Students with Disabilities on campus.

Dr. Campbell uses both English and American Sign Language for teaching and research. At Saint Mary's, she will work with interpreters to integrate ASL into teaching and research. She sees it as an opportunity to show that people of diverse backgrounds can succeed and contribute.

"The most difficult aspect of this is not being deaf," she said, "but breaking down people's opinions of what is possible (or not possible) for a deaf person."

She is not the only deaf professor working in a classroom in a Canadian university. In fact, in September 2010,

Ryerson University in Toronto sponsored a conference called Deaf Success in Higher Education. Four deaf professors and one postdoctoral fellow attended.

"The most difficult aspect of this is not being deaf, but breaking down people's opinions of what is possible (or not possible) for a deaf person."

The five academics shared stories of completing their PhDs and pursuing their careers in environmental science, linguistics, psychology, second-language acquisition and human factors engineering.

Kim Squires, Director of Human Resources at Saint Mary's, says Dr. Campbell's work with an interpreter will include meetings, classroom lectures, research seminars, interviews, field work and related academic events off-campus.

If you'd like to find out more about Dr. Campbell's research, read her Canada Research Chair profile (www.chairs-chaires.gc.ca) or visit her popular blog Ecogirl & Cosmoboy (ecogirlcosmoboy.wordpress.com) co-written with her husband, Dr. Rob Thacker, a Canada Research Chair in Computational Astrophysics at Saint Mary's.

"We discuss fun science issues," Dr. Campbell explains. "We're really trying to show how everything (from the smallest critter to the biggest galaxy) is connected." □



Students, staff and alumni showed their SMU pride at the Canada Games Oval. Here's hoping we have the chance to do it again next year! (March 4)

Alumni Events



Toronto Chapter Co-President, Meghan VanGaal (BComm' 08), thanks their first TPL Speaker Series Speaker, Todd Murphy (BComm '05), CEO and Co-founder MedRunner Health Solutions Inc. for sharing his experiences with SMU alumni. (November 18)



John Rodgers (MBA' 02), Kevin McMillan, Donna Rodgers and Sue McMillan enjoyed watching the Toronto Raptors, who were defeated by the Phoenix Suns (110-92), as the Toronto Chapter hosted SMU alumni and friends in a box suite. (February 25)



Alumni President Greg Poirier, and SMU supporters attempt to stay warm in the frigid Alberta cold as the Huskies were defeated (35-8) by the Calgary Dinos at the Mitchell Bowl. (November 16)



Francisco Miranda, Darlene Miranda Lucas (BA '98), Adrianna Miranda Lucas, Wesley Paris(BA' 99), Yolanda Banks enjoy the Raptors game. (February 25)

Visit www.smu.ca/alumni for more photos from other Alumni Events!



SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2011
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Proceeds from this event will go to the "Friends of Saint Mary's Fund" which provides bursaries to single parents attending Saint Mary's University.

A charitable receipt
will be issued for a
portion of the ticket price.

One Hundred Dollars per ticket

Tickets may be purchased by contacting Bonita Ramsay, Office of the President at **420.5403** or bonita.ramsay@smu.ca



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Supply on separate sheet, if necessary.
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left: Diane Francis, Editor-at-Large for the National Post, presenting the keynote address. right: Dr. Richard Homburg listens intently as friends and colleagues spoke of his commitment to excellence. photos: Paul Darrow



DR. RICHARD HOMBURG INDUCTED INTO HALL OF LEADERSHIP

Richard Homburg knows there are easier places to do business than Nova Scotia, but the Chairman of the Homburg Group of Companies told guests at April's Turning Points in Leadership Dinner, the province will continue to be the Canadian anchor for his real estate development empire.

"If you can make it here, you can make it anywhere," he told the amused crowd. "But I never met better people. I like the way of life here."

Dr. Homburg spoke about his life and his career after he was inducted into the Turning Points Hall of Leadership in recognition of his entrepreneurial prowess and his commitment to the community.

Born in the Netherlands, he told the crowd that he was too impatient to complete a formal education, but laid the foundation for his multibillion-dollar business on street smarts honed in the School of Hard Knocks.

He said he learned about the importance of international travel and cultural differences while riding around Europe on a motorcycle before coming to Canada and starting a small import-export business in Stellarton.

The small business morphed into a real estate operation and over the years, has expanded into seven countries on two continents.

In video clips, friends and colleagues lauded his induction, commenting on his passion, his ability to solve problems and his business style, which focuses on "getting the job done."

Erin Garner, a 2010 grad who received the Dr. Richard Homburg Bursary in Entrepreneurship and helped unveil the Homburg portrait that will hang in the Hall of Leadership, brought the tribute closer to Saint Mary's.

She said the award allowed her to put concerns about tuition aside and dive into her job as VP Finance of the Students' Association and to attend a summer program at the Grenoble School of Management in France.

Like other students who have been able to travel to Japan, Italy and China on Homburg Mobility scholarships awarded since 1982, she said the international experience changed her life.

"Thank you, Dr. Homburg. The awards are not just recognition for what we've done, but they're investments in our future achievements," she said.

The event was hosted by Diane Francis, Editor at Large for the National Post. Drawing on interviews she did with Canada's richest business leaders in 1986 and then again in 2008, she talked about how capitalism in Canada has changed in the last 25 years.

Gone are the days of family wealth and European nepotism, she said. With increasing global competition, she said, the wealthiest Canadians are self-made people who hire and fire based on individuals' ability to perform.

She said half of the richest people in Canada are immigrants, and the most successful believe in ethical entrepreneurship, in which all parties to an agreement benefit. □



Make HOMECOMING *Your Own*

Homecoming provides an opportunity for friends to come together with their families to swap stories, relive glory moments and create new memories. There are activities for all ages that include wine and cheese events, small group gatherings, alumni awards and the Sports hall of Fame induction ceremony. Homecoming 2011 will mark the launch of the One World Alumni Dinner, this year supporting Wadeng Wings of Hope.



Homecoming at Saint Mary's is about friends, fun and football ...and much more. It provides an opportunity for every component of the University to come together to celebrate as a whole. It's about coming home to what is in your heart, your memories and your experiences. It unites the past and the present and is rooted in tradition and friendships.

Homecoming 2011 is going to build on this tradition of friendship by bringing alumni and friends together for an enjoyable week of activities that will not only bring back old memories but also create new ones.

New this year is the inaugural One World Alumni Dinner. Sponsored by TD Insurance Meloche Monnex, the 2011 Charity Dinner will focus on the efforts of Wadeng Wings of Hope, a Canadian registered charity dedicated to raising funds for projects to support children's education and well-being in southern Sudan.

In 2003, Jacob Deng, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, left a refugee camp in Nairobi, Kenya to and headed to Halifax with two goals in mind: to get an education and to give back to his people. Now, in 2011 Jacob has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Saint Mary's University and is at the forefront of the charity he founded in 2004, working tirelessly toward his goal of building a primary school in his home village.

"What this young man has accomplished for his community is inspiring," says Scott Grant, Senior Manager, Affinity Market Group, TD Insurance Meloche Monnex. "We are thrilled to have opportunity to come together with Saint Mary's alumni and raise money for such a worthwhile cause."

The One World Alumni Dinner will be the first of its kind at Saint Mary's. It will unite the alumni community to support a worthwhile charity that will truly touch the lives of those in southern Sudan.

"This dinner really is about community," says Greg Poirier, Alumni Association President. "Saint Mary's alumni are an inspirational group of individuals who have benefited from a world class education. This occasion will allow us to come together as a community to help a community."

The Saint Mary's community will have another unique opportunity to come together this year with a new concept called Small Groups. Small Groups is about everyone—literally! Groups can be defined by your classes, faculties, departments or societies to more non-traditional groups, such as residences, sports teams, special interest groups or just your regular group of friends!

"This is a way for Saint Mary's alumni to make homecoming their own," says Jeff Lohnes, who took part in Small Groups last year by organizing an event with many of his Saint Mary's friends called The Best Darn 50. "With Small Groups, you can have your own event and not only will the Alumni Office help you plan it but you can even receive funding to help with the costs."

The Small Groups concept provides an amazing opportunity to connect with old friends and Saint Mary's is currently looking for people to step forward as leaders and create their own small group.

"The more people we have who want to participate in Small Groups, the wider our Saint Mary's community grows," says Greg, "and we're sending out a challenge to Saint Mary's alumni to take the initiative and become Small Groups leaders."

On top of Small Groups and the new One World Alumni Dinner, Homecoming 2011 also introduces the first Silver Grad Brunch. This brunch, hosted by Greg Poirier, invites alumni from the Saint Mary's classes of 1962-1986 to reunite and share memories from their time as Huskies. Taking place just before the kickoff of the Saint Mary's–Acadia football game, the brunch is a wonderful way for alumni to connect with old friends and remember their years spent as Saint Mary's Huskies!

A full schedule for Homecoming 2011 events including Mass of Thanksgiving, Golden Grad Luncheon, Annual General Meeting, President's Wine & Cheese and Alumni Awards, Sport Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, football game and SMU Sociable, is available online. □



Saint Mary's alumnus Will Njoku celebrates after sinking a basket during a game with the Canadian national team in the mid-90s. Today, he works with community organizations and young people.

Nice Guys Can FINISH FIRST

By Brian Hayes

For former Saint Mary's basketball star Will Njoku, success is a journey, not a destination.

Since he began honing his hoop skills as a young teen on the outdoor courts of west-end Halifax, the 38-year-old has won accolades playing for Saint Mary's and for Canada's junior and national basketball teams.

One of only a few Canadian university students to be drafted by a National Basketball Association team, he has travelled the world, playing professionally for Team Canada.

Throughout his journey, he has never forgotten the opportunities Canada has given him. Nor has he forgotten the inspiration and encouragement of his parents, coaches and mentors.

Njoku was just four when he, his mother, younger brother and older sister immigrated to Canada from their native Ghana to join his father, who was already working in Halifax.

"My parents worked so hard for us, and my mom is a hero to me because she sacrificed a lot for us," he says of his childhood.

"Getting involved in things sort of framed our minds that this is our path — a path of inspiration and education."

Njoku attended Chebucto Heights Elementary School in Kline Heights, where his father encouraged him to get involved and participate in sports.

"It was a fantastic school and a great opportunity for an immigrant like me," he says. "I loved to learn. I did volunteer work

at the school. I was in cubs and scouts and lucky enough to take part in summer Halifax recreation (department) programs."

Singing in the school choir and playing the cello also gave him a love of music.

In 1985, the Njoku family moved to The Pubs, a public housing development off Bayers Road. It was there, on an outside basketball court near his house, that he started playing the game at age 13.

At Major Stevens Junior High, and later at Halifax West High School, his skills on the court earned him national and international attention. So it was no surprise that when it was time to go to university, Njoku had offers from schools across Canada and the United States. But he chose Saint Mary's because he wanted to stay close to home to look after his family.

"I scored 32 points in my first exhibition game," he recalls. "I guess it set the table for things to come. I had a good rookie year."

Njoku was twice named Saint Mary's Male Athlete of the Year and won an Atlantic University Sports title in 1992. He also won the 1993 Mike Mosher Award as the Canadian Interuniversity Sports Most Outstanding Basketball Player.

He graduated in 1994 with a BA in psychology.

Only 22, and just weeks away from being drafted 41st overall by the NBA's Indiana Pacers, Njoku lost his younger brother to sickle-cell anemia. His sister also developed the



Will Njoku, holding his son, accepting an award on January 5.

disease, but is now on the mend. Although he failed to crack the Pacers lineup, Njoku says any disappointment was tempered by knowing he competed against some of the top players in the world.

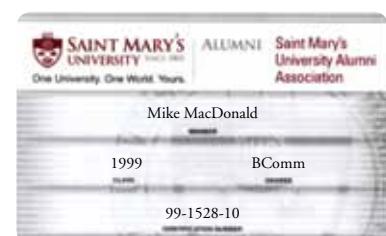
Since retiring from professional basketball more than a decade ago, Njoku has been involved in volunteering, coaching and inspirational speaking. He now runs his Will2Win program, which encourages kids to follow the motto Set Your Feet, Aim High, Follow Through, Every Day.

He also serves as the logistics co-ordinator for the Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life in Moncton, N.B., where he lives with his wife and 11-month-old son.

"Right now, I love what I'm doing," he says, noting the strength he draws from God's love and the support of his family.

At January's fifth annual Courage to Give Back Awards in Halifax, Njoku was honoured by the Family Service of Support Association for his contributions to the community. □

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Visit:
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You must show your Alumni Card to receive discounts at The Tower, Bookstore, Library and Varsity Athletic events. Request yours today!



2010 Fall Convocation: RESPECTING THE POWER OF WORDS

In an age of too much jargon and too little eloquence, Jim Bennet urged graduates attending Fall Convocation to respect the power of words.

As a composer of some of the East Coast's best-loved humorous songs and one of three individuals presented with an honorary degree at the October 3 ceremony, Bennet likened the English language to a free Lego set with nearly a quarter of a million pieces.

"You can put them together in numberless shapes. You can assemble them in ways nobody else has ever done. So why be commonplace or clichéd?"

The message was delivered with gusto to the 200 students who gathered at Halifax's World Trade and Convention Centre with their parents in anticipation of receiving their long-sought degrees and diplomas.

Before Bennet's speech, President J. Colin Dodds and outgoing Chancellor David Sobey assisted in the induction of Dr. Robert P. Kelly, CEO of Bank of New York Mellon, as the new Chancellor for the University. He replaced Dr. Sobey, who has served with distinction in the role for the past three years.

left: Broadcaster and author Jim Bennet addresses Convocation. centre: Saint Mary's newest honorary degree holders: Jeff and Debra Moore, leaders in the co-operative movement, and author and musician Jim Bennet. right: Dr. Robert P. Kelly was officially sworn in as the University's new Chancellor.

As Chancellor, Dr. Kelly has committed to promoting the university as he travels the globe on business and agreed to preside over important university ceremonies, such as graduations. In his first brief address to students as Chancellor, he reminded them that a graduation ceremony is important to parents too.

Bennet worked at CBC for many years, appearing as a regular on Singalong Jubilee and later putting together dozens of documentaries and radio plays. Since retiring from the CBC in 1986, and the family firm, Bennet Communications in 1998, he has run two production companies, written two books and written or produced corporate videos for some of the province's top companies. He also remains active in the music industry.

Honorary degrees were also presented to Debra and Jeff Moore, co-founders of Just Us! Coffee Roasters Co-operative and leaders in the co-operative movement.

The Valedictory Address was given by Commerce student Nicole Matthews of Westphal. The Hooding Candidate was Veron Lake of St. Kitts, in the Caribbean. Lake received a special round of applause when it was noted he was heading off to further his studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science. □

STAY CONNECTED WE WANT YOU...AND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS



There's a lot of interesting things going on at Saint Mary's that we want our alumni to know about, but if we can't find you, we can't tell you.

To make sure we can get you that information more easily, the University has been streamlining its smu.ca email service, giving alumni the ability to stay connected using their preferred email.

"We want to be able to reach our alumni in the way that makes the most sense for them," says Perry Sisk, the University Director of IT Services. "For the overwhelming majority, that means delivering the information to an email account of their choice."

The opportunity to provide an alternative email began last fall. By October 1, however, the smu.ca service for alumni will disappear completely. To avoid missing our e-mail communications, please provide us with your updated e-mail address.

You can make the change today by going to the alumni website (smu.ca/alumni) and clicking on the email update button.

We look forward to continuing the conversation about Saint Mary's.



2011 Alumni Awards

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Nominate alumni for the Distinguished Service Award, Volunteer of the Year, Associate Alumni and the Young Alumni Award. The awards will be presented during Homecoming.

For more information and for Nomination Forms contact www.smu.ca/alumni, 902.420.5420 or alumni@smu.ca

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS FRIDAY, AUGUST 12.



Essay Contest Winner

A Huskie at Heart

By Stephanie Turner-Chiasson (BComm '11)

Being a Huskie has taught me that in universities like mine, professors are passionate about actually knowing each student and helping them learn. Some of my professors took pictures of students on the first day because they wanted to be able to know their students by name. Most of my classes have had students from every area of the world. Some professors took the time to meet with me to discuss their studies and research; these professors have ignited my curiosity to discover how our world works and how it can be improved, and have inspired me to teach students of my own. My four years at SMU have taught me that as cutthroat as the real world may be, there will always be people behind you to encourage you throughout your struggles and celebrate your successes.

Being a Huskie has shown me that the university experience includes much more than homework. True examples of school spirit are easy to find at SMU. The SMU cheers we learned at Turfburn were put to good use as our entire residence floor gathered in our lounge to watch the SMU men's hockey team win CIS gold. The women's hockey team took time out of their busy training schedule to go cheer on the women's soccer team during one of their games. SMU football games are traditional opportunities for SMU fans to proudly display their school spirit through cheers, face paint and costumes; even for those who still have no idea how the game works, myself included. While our sometimes amazing, sometimes less-than-stellar performances in intramural sports might be forgotten, the friends we made in the process will not. My four years at SMU have taught me that as important as a career may be, it is important to spend time strengthening bonds with coworkers to share our successes as a team.

Being a Huskie has taught me that when students join together to rally for a cause, we can create a better world for ourselves and for others. Whether it is the Random Acts of Kindness squad, varsity athletes' yearly fundraiser for cystic fibrosis, or initiatives from the SMU Environmental Society such as the Get Caught Recycling program, SMU students do what it takes to turn ideas into action. Perhaps one of the most touching examples was the contribution of students and community members to help keep our women's hockey team. My four years at SMU have taught me that positive change is possible, and that we as united individuals have the power to make it happen.

Some aspects of being a SMU student will be greatly missed, such as Open Mic at the Gorsebrook, wearing flip-flops to class in January, the rivalry of Battle of the Floors, or the freedom of not having class on Fridays. Nevertheless, the lessons that I have learned from SMU, both during and outside of classes, have shaped who I have become and will remain with me throughout my career and my life.

Stephanie was the winner of the 2011 Graduating Student Essay Contest and won a \$500 cash prize for sharing what her time at Saint Mary's University has meant to her. Other winners included Andrew Steeves (BA '11) \$250 and Stuart Warren (BComm '11) \$100.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION

There were smiles, streamers and lots of back-slapping as the most successful capital campaign in the history of the university wrapped up last November with a celebration in the Atrium. Launched in 2006, The Hearts and Minds Campaign raised just over \$45.4 million.

The generosity of donors has transformed the campus, making new buildings like the Atrium and the Homburg Centre for Health and Wellness realities. The campaign also raised vital funds for student aid and the enhancement of services for students with disabilities.

You can now give to Saint Mary's online!
www.smu.ca/giveonline

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EMPATHY FACTOR: THE KIDS WANT TO GIVE

Like many young men, Blair Ryan had his blinders on. He was an undergraduate student at Ontario's Sir Wilfred Laurier University with hopes of becoming a CFL star. But in his third year, he was diagnosed with chronic liver disease, and his priorities changed.

But he was still determined to make a difference.

After working for several years for two national health-related charities, most recently the Canadian Cancer Society, Ryan hit upon a way to do just that. In late 2010, he launched the Empathy Factory, a bold non-profit organization dedicated to fostering the spirit of humanitarianism in young people.

"Children are my passion," says Ryan, who is earning his MBA at the Sobey School of Business and working part-time in Saint Mary's External Affairs department.



"They inspire me every day; the things they say, do — their outlook in general. So I decided to do something that would get an entire generation involved in philanthropy, but in a way where they could find something that moves them."

What Ryan came up with is brilliant in both concept and execution. Through the Empathy Factory, he will visit schools across Nova Scotia, giving workshops on the joys of volunteering to students aged 9-15. And he will issue a challenge to them: come up with an idea that will better their communities. The Empathy Factory will provide full support, mentorship and funding to two projects at each school, working with the students through every step of the process.

"Whether it's a food drive or a park cleanup, we support them until their project is done because we want them to see and feel the rewards of their hard work," says Ryan. Though he only recently made his first school visit, Ryan says the Empathy Factory, with startup money from family and friends, is gaining momentum.

"I'm training Saint Mary's students to deliver this program at other schools. Many have indicated they want to take this idea home with them, which means it could go beyond Nova Scotia by summer."

He also has plans for a summer camp in 2012, where kids will spend a week immersed in humanitarian work. But for now, Ryan is focused on securing status as a registered charity, recruiting volunteers and connecting with as many students as he can.

"The age group we're targeting has unabashed optimism. These kids believe they can achieve whatever they want. So if we get in and connect with them now, we can prove them right — and that's a powerful lesson. These are our future philanthropic leaders, CEOs, doctors and politicians. We owe it to them." □

2008

Matt Graham (BComm) was recently promoted to Key Account Manager-Wal-Mart for PepsiCo Beverages Canada, as well as being appointed to the National Diversity and Inclusion Council for PBC.

Laura Stanford (BComm) is studying at the University of Lancaster in Lancaster, England, Department of Leadership and Learning, and is working towards her MA in Management and Consulting.

2007

Peggy Wallace (PhD) won the Outstanding Paper Award for 2009 from the journal Qualitative Research in Organizations & Management. Peggy's paper was published in issue 4:1 of the journal and grew out of her PhD thesis. The full citation is: Wallace, P. (2009), "Career Stories of Women Professional Accountants: Examining the personal narratives of career using Simone de Beauvoir's feminist existentialist philosophy as a theoretical framework."

2006

Jeff Colburne (BComm), CA, was named the newest manager at Rector Colavechhia Roche Chartered Accountants. Jeff and his family are pleased to be back home and are looking forward to re-establishing their roots in Nova Scotia. He joins partners Lawrence Roche (BComm '86), CA, and Steven Gray (BComm '00), CA, who are also proud Saint Mary's alumni.

Dr. Jasmine Riviere Marcellin (BSc), MD, recently graduated Summa Cum Laude (with highest honour) from the American University of Antigua College of Medicine, having scored a double 99 per cent on the USMLE exams. Jasmine begins her residency in Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., in July. She is married to Dr. Alberto Marcellin.

2005

Robert Kennedy (BA) has been appointed a Crown attorney in the Dartmouth office of the Public Prosecution Service. Robert graduated from Dalhousie Law School in 2008 and articled with the law firm of Blois, Nickerson and Bryson, before carrying on a criminal, family and civil litigation practice.

2003

Catherine Robar (BComm), founding director of the Themba Development Project, recently married Gcinisizwe Noyakaza in a traditional and intimate ceremony in South Africa. The couple has since founded a registered charity to help chronically hungry people find solutions to food insecurity. Robar and Noyakaza enjoyed a romantic honeymoon journey throughout Zambia, Botswana and Namibia and look forward to many more life adventures together.

2002



Inc. , is celebrating 10 wonderful years in business, with accomplishments ranging from working abroad in Russia, Jamaica, and the U.K., to incorporating and acquiring 13 associates and yet another new employee in business support.

2000

Melissa Smith (BSc) and **James Windley (Dip Eng '99)** were married in a private ceremony at Two Jack Lake, Banff, Alta., on September 9, 2010. Melissa and James met in residence at Saint Mary's in September 1996.

1998

Gary Gilbert (BComm) moved to Munich, Germany, four years ago and is working in the Content Management Software sector for CONTENS Software GmbH. Although his knowledge of German is not yet perfect, his knowledge of German beer is. Viele Grüße aus Bayern!

Sean Llewellyn (MBA) is working with Scotiabank as Manager, Retail and Small Business Credit. Rania Guindi Llewellyn (MBA '96) is working as Senior Vice-President & Head of Canadian Operations, Roynat Capital Inc. Married for 12 years, they have two children — Sofia, 7, and Zachary, 4½ — and live in Toronto. Sean is attending Saturday Arabic classes with his children (Rania is from Egypt and speaks Arabic) and is proud to say he recently skipped a grade and is now in Grade 5.

Melody Song (BComm) is now working for SAIT Polytechnic in Calgary and is the proud mother of 14-month-old Marlon.

1997

Chris Flynn (BA) is headed to the Canadian Football Hall of Fame. He was one of five players and two builders named to the Hall in February. Chris quarterbacked Saint Mary's University Huskies from 1987 to 1990. He led Saint Mary's to a 27-2 regular season record, four AUAA championships, and in two Vanier Cup appearances. He was a four-time AUAA All-Star QB; three-time CIAU All-Canadian. Flynn holds CIAU records for most TD passes in a season and career and as leading rusher QB in CIAU history.

He won the Hec Crighton Trophy for Most Outstanding Player three times.



Atlantic Region's credit unions. Her daughter with Julian Young (BA '94), Maddie, will be 11 this year

1991

Dave Bond (BComm) recently completed a Masters in International Affairs (GMAP) at Tufts University in Boston. He joined the HR team at Brookfield Renewal Power in the role of Director – Total Rewards. He, Whitney (Harvard '92) and their three children (Michael, 6; Oliver, 4; and Elena, 2) live in Ottawa. If you're ever in town, please make a point of contacting him. Email: davebond@sympatico.ca.

Brenda Hogan (BComm) has been elected to the Board of Women in Capital Markets (WCM). With over 1,000 members, WCM is a non-profit organization that promotes the entry, advancement and development of women in the capital markets industry.

1996

Weiqi Ge (MBA) has been recently appointed as President of Asia Pacific for the Climate Solution of Ingersoll Rand.

Kwame Watkins (BSc) has been promoted to Vice-President of Operations for Sodexo USA in its School Services Facilities Management Division and will be based in Detroit, Mich.

1994

Flora MacLeod (MBA) and her husband, Stephen Dickson, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Callum Donald Dickson, on October 9, 2010, in Halifax.

Will Njoku (BA) a former two-time Saint Mary's Athlete of the Year and NBA draft pick, was rewarded for his outstanding accomplishments in coaching, inspirational speaking and volunteer work at the 5th Annual Courage To Give Back Awards presented by Family SOS. This fundraising event formally honoured four extraordinary individuals in our community who have overcome personal adversity and have inspired others by giving back to families and communities.

1992

Charlene Boyce (BA) is currently employed as Director, Communications with Atlantic Central, the central service provider to the

in appreciation of dedication and outstanding volunteerism and valuable contribution to the Halifax community in May 2010. She also received the Canadian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Award for 2010 Outstanding Professional of the Year — the first recipient of this award.

1984

John Nause (BA '59, BEd) retired as Principal of Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School in 1984. Since then, he has taught some courses in English at Université Sainte-Anne, travelled extensively with his wife, Dawn-Marie, and lately, winters in Florida. He has four sons, three daughters, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

1980

Joe Young (BA) continues to work for Air Canada as instructor/trainer in the cargo department. His job means he travels the Air Canada world and has now worked in over 40 cities worldwide. He has four children, all of whom will be in university next year. Joseph, the eldest, is doing a double major (honours) at Saint Mary's. Katie is at Sainte-Anne. Eric is in his first year at the Royal Military College. Sarah, the youngest, will attend St. Francis Xavier University.

1977

Blair Beed (BComm) After 12 years in the book market, Blair is now with Nimbus Publishing with his books *1917 Halifax Explosion and American Response* and *Titanic Victims in Halifax Graveyards*. Continuing in the Maritime tour business, he is the "resident history guy" on the Rick Howe Show, Rogers 95.7 Halifax. Blair also volunteers time to the restoration of Saint Patrick's Church, Halifax, in the Give Saint Patrick a Hand Campaign.

1975

Sharon Hobin (BED, BA '74) has been elected Vice-Chair of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. Dufferin-Peel covers Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon. The board serves 87,000 students and employs 11,000 people with a budget of almost \$90 million. Sharon is serving her second four-year term as Trustee and a second year as Vice-Chair. She is married to George and has three children.

1973

*Carol-Anne Hutchinson (BA, BEd'75, MLS'**'77, MA '84)* was awarded a PhD on May 8, 2010, by the University of South Carolina. Carol-Anne and her husband, Lorne Pike, divide their time between their homes in Bedford and Bonita Springs.*Francis Perry (BA, BEd '74)* recently retired from 30-plus years as a teacher and school counsellor and has published a new suspense novel with a school setting. Info is available at www.approachingstorm.ca.

1969

Richard Franklin's (BComm) daughter Missy, 15, won the Silver Medal for the 200-metre backstroke in the World Championship Short Course in Dubai in December.

1967

Jacqueline Guyette (BA, BEd '68, MA '77) has served as a classroom teacher, a Consultant in the Department of Education, Superintendent of Schools in Springhill and Assistant Superintendent of schools serving Northern Nova Scotia. Jacqueline has been retired since 1987 and is still very active in church, community and provincial volunteer work and

In Memoriam

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January 1, 2010*Debra Thornton*
BSc '88
January 1, 2010*Roger Baranowski*
BComm '77
May 27, 2010*Richard Pereira*
June 3, 2010*Clarence Phillips*
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BComm '65
March 2, 2011*David Currie*
March 3, 2011*Arnie Patterson*
March 9, 2011*Mary Sparling*
BEd '70
March 16, 2011

Why it's Sometimes OK to Love the Leafs

Sierra Leone. More recently, Devaney has been doing part-time development work in Malawi and Ghana.

Brian Flemming (BSc) recently won the prestigious Weldon Award for Unselfish Public Service at Dalhousie Law School. The award is given annually by the law school and its alumni to an alumnus who has rendered "unselfish public service" to his country or community.

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1965

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Terrence Punch (BEd, MA '71, DLitt '00) was named a Member of the Order of Canada in the Governor General's New Year's honors list.

1961

1961

Pat McDonald (BA) has appeared on the CPAC National Channel and Global Television promoting Canadian history and twice has been a guest speaker at the Grey Coat School in London, England. In addition, Pat is webmaster for the educational website www.davidthompsonthings.com. In 2009, Pat was inducted into the Alberta High School Basketball Coaching Hall of Fame. Pat played basketball at Saint Mary's under the legendary Frank Baldwin.

1955

1955

Ray Ritcey (BA, Honorary Doctorate '04) recently published a memoir, African Chronicles. He is a former Halifax educator and a co-founder of the Nova Scotia-Gambia Association, which he directed for 20 years (1986-2006). Devaney and his wife, Louanne, have devoted much of their lives to development work in Africa, having lived and worked in Rhodesia, Nigeria, the Gambia and

Sierra Leone. More recently, Devaney has been doing part-time development work in Malawi and Ghana.

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A huge snowstorm had paralyzed the city. The roads were impassable, and power outages were widespread. Workers intent on heading to their offices downtown were forced to trade their briefcases for shovels.

Fast asleep in my parent's home, I was blissfully unaware of the events unfolding as the city woke to find Jack Frost had tossed it an icy curveball during the night. I'd been up watching hockey with friends until the wee hours and had no plans to rise earlier than noon.

Imagine my dismay when my mother barged into my room just after 7 a.m. to tell me that one of my university friends was on the phone looking for a favour.

I struggled to the phone and watched bleary-eyed as a passing plow created a mountainous bank along the road in a single pass.

"Hello?" I croaked into the receiver.

It was a fellow student in Saint Mary's University's MBA program. He was stuck in his house on the other side of the city and would not be able to get to campus for a scheduled job interview. Since I lived just a few blocks from Saint Mary's, could I please go over there and see if I could get the interview rescheduled?

I agreed to try. I pulled on some sweatpants, a ratty old T-shirt and a parka and headed to campus and the Human Resources Department, which at the time was on the second floor of the building that houses the Gorsebrook Lounge.

When I arrived, the office was dark (the power was out), and I was alone except for a guy sitting quietly on a chair next to the window. I sat down nearby, and we started talking. We chatted about the storm and items in the news, but most of all I remember talking about Toronto

Maple Leafs centre Darryl Sittler, who had scored six goals and four assists the night before against the Boston Bruins.

We shot the breeze for about an hour before the director of human resources arrived. I gave him a chance to hang up his jacket, then explained why I was there.

He nodded politely and introduced me to the man with whom I had been speaking. His name was Terry Mahoney, and he was the man from the Bank of Nova Scotia who was interviewing students.

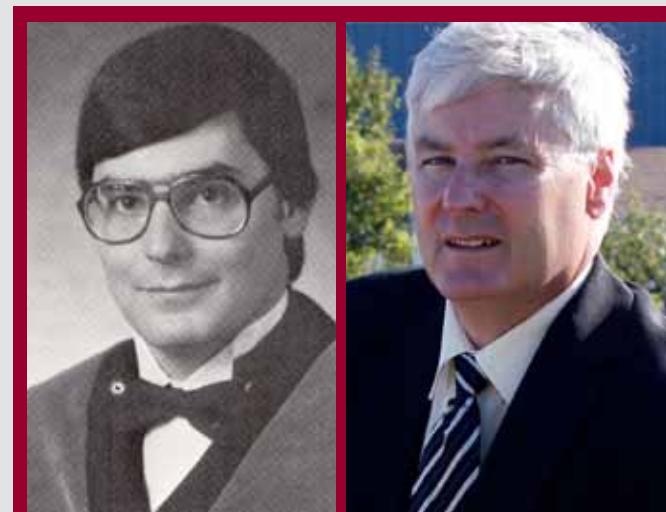
The HR director suggested that since my friend wasn't going to be available, I go into the office and interview for the position. I'm sure they both saw my chin drop to the floor.

Mahoney jumped in before I could mumble anything about my clothes, my hair or my raspy voice. He must have been a Leafs fan because he said there was no need for an interview. He hired me on the spot.

That's how I started my career with the Bank of Nova Scotia. There, I established a solid foundation that allowed me to move through other good companies and ultimately, brought me back home to lead a great young company, Heritage Gas. Now, I serve as Vice-President, Corporate Development with Heritage parent, AltaGas.

The five years I spent at Saint Mary's taught me many lessons about hard work and taking risks. But that life-changing moment on that snowy day serves forever as a reminder that you never know where that helping hand may come from and that sometimes luck and opportunity simply come together.

Ray Ritcey received his BComm in 1976 and his MBA in 1978. □



Ray Ritcey in 1976 (left) and 2011 (right).

Did a Saint Mary's moment change your life? A first kiss, shift in thinking, a mentor or a life-long friend? Send your story to alumni@smu.ca and you could be featured in a future issue.



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