

# M&W

MAROON AND WHITE

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

# Kayo Guevarra

B.Comm'12

FROM SPREADSHEETS TO HIP HOP BEATS



FALL 2012

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The musical styles of Pictou County singer-songwriter, Dave Gunning, and rap artist, Kayo, are many miles apart, yet as Santamarians, they share a common bond and a common source of inspiration: the time they spent at Saint Mary's.

With this issue of *Maroon and White*, Saint Mary's celebrates creative endeavors in areas ranging from music and the arts to business, social responsibility, and international development. Whether they're making films, furthering diplomatic relations or lending a hand to troubled youth, Saint Mary's students, faculty, staff and alumni are never short on inspiration.

Please enjoy this magazine, and join me in welcoming Michael McKenzie to his new role as President of Saint Mary's University Alumni Association. With his creative efforts, we will continue to experiment with new ways to inspire our alumni to keep in touch and get involved. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
  
Dr. J. Colin Dodds  
President and Vice-Chancellor



As the new president of the Saint Mary's University Alumni Association, I can't help but be impressed by the range of activities undertaken by the members of our alumni family. From Belfast and Rio de Janeiro to Ghana and the Turks & Caicos Islands, Santamarians are out in the world pursuing their dreams.

Some of these dreams unfold in this issue of *Maroon and White*. You'll meet our annual Alumni Award winners; read about the very successful, second annual One World Alumni Dinner; and enjoy colourful accounts of alumni around the globe.

You may even catch up with some old friends in the photos from this year's Homecoming. Always a celebration of memories, associations and athletic triumphs, Homecoming is also a vivid reminder of the strong ties shared by graduates of this University. Please help us strengthen those ties by sending your own updates and ideas. As you will see in the following pages, we are always interested in a good story.

Yours truly,  
  
Michael McKenzie  
President, Saint Mary's University Alumni Association

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**EDITOR:**

Steve Proctor (BJ'83)  
Communications Manager

**ART DIRECTION AND DESIGN:**

Spectacle Group  
C. Lynn Redmond (BA'99)

**CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE:**

Suzanne Robicheau  
Cathy von Kintzel  
Marie Weeren

**ADVERTISING:**

(902) 420-5420

**ALUMNI DIRECTOR:**

Mary Ann Daye (BComm'85)

**ALUMNI OFFICERS:**

Sarah MacDonald  
Monica Njoku

**ASSOC. VICE PRESIDENT**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:**  
Margaret Murphy (BA Hon, MA)

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E: alumni@smu.ca www.smu.ca/alumni

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*Gavin Fridell*

**GAVIN FRIDELL** – Dr. Fridell joins Saint Mary’s as the University’s ninth Canada Research Chair. He comes to Saint Mary’s from Trent University, where he was an Assistant Professor in the Politics Department. Dr. Fridell has a PhD in political science from York University and is the author of *Fair Trade Coffee: The Prospects and Pitfalls of Market-Driven Social Justice*. He holds the Canada Research Chair in International Development Studies.

**SUSAN JOUDREY** – Ms. Joudrey joins the Centre for Academic and Instructional Development this fall in the position of Instructional Development Associate. Prior to accepting the new position, she worked as a part-time instructor in the History Department and as a tutor in Saint Mary’s Writing Centre. She has also taught part-time at Carleton University, Mount Saint Vincent University, and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD).

**JULIAN L’ENFANT** – Mr. L’Enfant joins the TESL Centre as the new Academic Services Manager. He comes to Saint Mary’s after working as a Cambridge ESOL teacher trainer in many parts of Europe, as well as in North and South America. Mr. L’Enfant has written and produced ESL materials for several publishers.

**GORDON MICHAEL** – Mr. Michael was recently named Director of Continuing Education at Saint Mary’s University, having served as Acting Director since October 2011. In making the appointment, Dr. David Gauthier, Vice-President Academic and Research, credited Michael’s depth of experience with helping Saint Mary’s address the ever-changing and diverse challenges of continuing education.

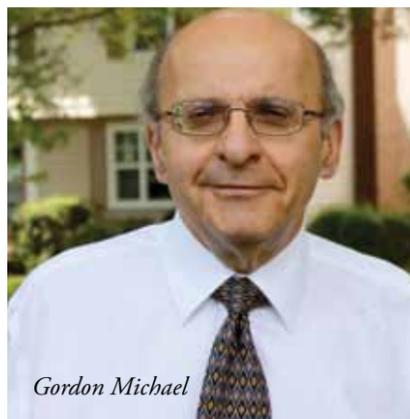
**MATT ROBINSON** – A native Haligonian and Saint Mary’s grad (BA’96), Robinson took on the role of Director of Housing and Residence Services this past summer. He has worked in Residence Life and Student Services for over a decade at both The University of New Brunswick in Fredericton and Dalhousie University. In addition to his work in student services, Robinson is a poet with a number of books to his credit. □



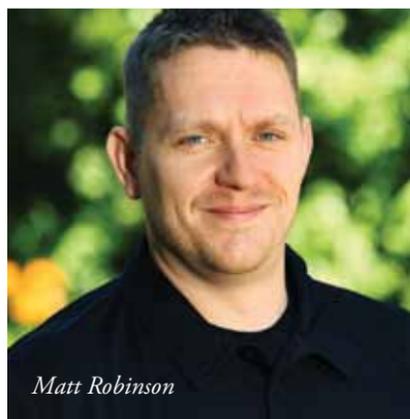
*Susan Joudrey*



*Julian L’Enfant*



*Gordon Michael*



*Matt Robinson*



## DINOSAUR DONATIONS

A housecleaning by long-time friends of Saint Mary’s has netted the University some interesting artefacts. Mary and Doug Rigby used to travel the world, collecting keepsakes along the way, but recently decided it was time to simplify their lives and de-clutter their home. To that end, they donated two sections of dinosaur bones collected near Edmonton, two sections of Cretaceous era stone, also collected in Alberta, and a replica of a Hominid skull found in 1972 by field staff who worked alongside noted paleoanthropologists Richard and Meave Leakey.

Geology professor Andrew MacRae was delighted with the donation, and said they will all be useful as teaching specimens for paleontology classes.

## KUDOS FOR CLEAN CAPITALISM

A strong code of social responsibility and environmental sustainability earned Saint Mary’s Sobeys School of Business national ranking by Corporate Knights magazine as one of the 10 Best MBA schools in Canada for 2012.

The world’s largest circulation publication with an explicit focus on Corporate Social Responsibility, Corporate Knights magazine shines a light on Canada’s leading business schools by measuring three main areas of activity: student-led initiatives; course work; and institutional support, such as endowed chairs, scholarships and faculty research. Published quarterly as an insert in the Washington Post and The Globe and Mail, the magazine provides prospective business students with a practical tool for choosing a university.

### THIS VERY OLD HOUSE

A team of researchers from Saint Mary's University, Université de Moncton-campus de Shippagan, and Mount Allison University discovered what may be Halifax's oldest wooden house. The Morris Building, which narrowly avoided destruction in 2009, has been dated to 1764—just 15 years younger than Halifax itself.

The findings are based, in part, on dendrochronology, a tree-ring dating technique used to examine growth ring patterns on core samples taken from the building's floor joists and, in part, on evidence uncovered by Saint Mary's archaeology professor, Dr. Jonathan Fowler, in historical maps from archives in the United Kingdom, as well as in copies of 18th century deeds at the Nova Scotia Archives. Dr. Fowler landed a solid blow for architectural preservation with the surprise discovery that the Morris Building actually predates its ownership by the Morris family.

### PEACEFUL SCHOOLS FINDS A HOME

Saint Mary's University is the new home for Peaceful Schools International, a charitable organization, which supports schools around the world that have made a commitment to creating and maintaining a culture of peace.

"This is a dream come true," says Peaceful Schools International founder Dr. Hetty van Gurp. "Since its inception over a decade ago, Peaceful Schools International has never had a permanent designated space to call its home. With its new office in the Homburg Centre for Health & Wellness, PSI can continue to build on our productive relationships."



*Dr. Jonathan Flower*

Saint Mary's University has a long history with peace education and has been a member of PSI for almost nine years. A celebration announcing PSI's new home was held September 21, the International Day of Peace.

### CHEERS!

The Atlantic Canadian wine industry got a boost with the creation of a new Atlantic Wine Institute this summer, and Saint Mary's University will play a leading partnership role.

Housed in the Acadia Centre for Rural Innovation, the multi-institutional centre will support the region's wine industry with wine research, outreach, and education. Dr. Claudia De Fuentes, a Business Management professor in the Sobey School of Business, will work with the Institute performing social network analyses to identify and study

the key agents within the Nova Scotia wine cluster.

"The Atlantic Wine Institute is an important organization with the potential to bring researchers together to foster our wine industry," she says.

### AFTER THE BIG BANG

As a member of a team that contributed to the development of The Canadian Space Agency's James Webb Space Telescope, Dr. Marcin Sawicki, an astronomer and professor of Astronomy and Physics at Saint Mary's University, is hot on the trail of galaxies and stars that formed after the Big Bang.

Dr. Sawicki and his team are responsible for the Fine Guidance Sensor (FGS) and the Near-Infrared Image and Slitless Spectrograph (NIRISS), a highly advanced, two-

in-one instrument. It will allow the James Webb Space Telescope to study stars and galaxies that formed near the beginning of time and seek planets orbiting other stars.

He and his team are looking forward to the instrument's integration and the eventual launch of the Webb Telescope in 2018.

### SAINT MARY'S GRAD SELECTED FOR MARS MISSION SIMULATION

Many of us cringe at the thought of the same boring meals over and over. But for Saint Mary's graduate, Simon Engler, the challenge of maintaining a diverse and healthy diet is all the more difficult. Engler is part of a six-person team will simulate a mission to Mars by living in isolation on a barren lava field in Hawai'i.

Engler (BSc'01), will be a crew member on a mission known as HI-SEAS (Hawai'i Space Exploration Analog and Simulation), part of a NASA study to combat menu fatigue, one of the greatest food challenges faced by astronauts during multiple-year missions to Mars or the moon. A voyage to the Red Planet could take from two to three years, and over this time, astronauts tire of eating foods they normally enjoy. They tend to eat less, which can lead to a variety of problems.

### NORTH EAST CAMPUS TAKES SHAPE

The \$15 million revitalization of the North East corner of campus as a new and exciting entry point for the University is well underway. The foundation for a three-storey, 28,500 square-foot building was completed

late in the summer and steel framing now offers a skeletal-view of the project. When it is completed in August 2013, the, as yet, unnamed building will be the new home for the Teaching English as a Second Language program and the Saint Mary's Business Development Centre which is currently located downtown.

### LOOKING FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS AROUND THE GLOBE

Saint Mary's was recently named host University for a \$4 million international project investigating the best environmental management practices on the planet.

"We're looking for the best ways that local communities are working to protect the environment," says lead researcher, Dr. Tony Charles, a Saint Mary's Environmental Science and Business Professor. "Conservation efforts look different from place to place. By identifying the commonalities, we can map out the best practices at a local level. We will also help governments understand how to better support community conservation initiatives. So this is not research that will sit on the shelf."

The new Community Conservation Research Network encompasses 11 study sites worldwide with a focus on three in Canada: Nova Scotia, Labrador, and Vancouver Island. A Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Partnership Grant provides \$2.5 million in funding, with the remainder contributed by individual participants and project partners.

*continued page 7 >*

# the Limelight

*A sampling of awards that put Saint Mary's in the limelight:*

An e-mail innovation allowing students to receive information at their preferred address made Saint Mary's the Atlantic Regional winner at the recent Quality and Productivity Awards sponsored by the Canadian Association of University Business Officers.

Saint Mary's Enactus (formerly SIFE) placed in the Top 5 at a national entrepreneurship competition held in Calgary. Commerce student Kaitlyn Tousnard won the John Dobson Founders Award and advisors Jason Turner, Lianne Perry, and Michael Sanderson won the Faculty Advisory of the Year Award.

Geography Professor Dr. Hugh Millward received the 2012 Service to the Profession Award from the Canadian Association of Geographers. The award recognizes the synthesis between theory and practice that informs his research and teaching.

Saint Mary's One World Alumni Dinner won Gold for the Best Alumni Event as judged by the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education (CCAIE). The Alumni dinner raised more than \$10,000 for Wadeng Wings of Hope. CCAIE awarded the University Bronze for Best Student Recruitment Initiative for the Interactive Campus Tour.

Jon Sharkey, a Saint Mary's grad and senior software engineer with Google, was inducted into the inaugural Science Atlantic Student Hall of Fame for his leadership role in taking the computer programming team to success at international competitions in 200-2002.

Dr. William Bridgeo, the first Dean of Science at Saint Mary's, was named an Emeritus member of Science Atlantic.

Associate Geography Professor Dr. John Calder, was awarded the 2012 E.R. Ward Neale Medal by the Geological Association of Canada. Dr. Calder was instrumental in having the fossil cliffs at Joggins designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

**THERE IS MORE THAN ONE REASON FOR ALUMNI TO COME BACK TO CAMPUS**



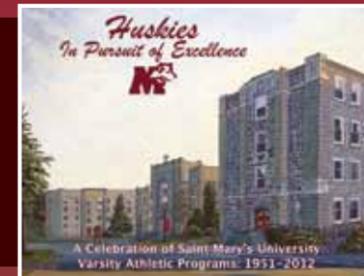
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**10 UNIVERSITY WELCOMES 50,000-YEAR-OLD PROFESSOR TO FACULTY**

The latest addition to the Saint Mary's community is a model professor who is wise, cultured, and has made his roots in France, Italy, Iraq, Belgium, Israel and Germany. And if Professor Bonesworth seems a little stiff at times, it's because he's a complete, fully-articulated Neanderthal skeleton.

Cast from real Neanderthal bones using a custom-formulated polyurethane resin, Bonesworth is a breath of fresh air for the Department of Anthropology at Saint Mary's University. "I think it will be quite beneficial for students," says Department Chairperson Dr. Paul Erickson. "Neanderthals are the subject of much scientific debate as to whether they are like humans, so it makes for terrific comparisons with complete modern human skeletons. As well, it brings to life the fossils we study in paleoanthropology, the part of anthropology that deals with human evolution."

Like any upstanding Neanderthal, Dr. Bonesworth has his own Twitter account. Follow him at [twitter.com/ProfBonesworth](https://twitter.com/ProfBonesworth) □



# Making *the* Cut

By Suzanne Robicheau

Still reeling from the excitement of seeing their film aired in May at the preeminent Cannes Film Festival, Saint Mary's arts grads, Ashley McKenzie and Nelson MacDonald, had more cause to celebrate in September when their film, *When You Sleep*, premiered in the Short Cuts Canada program at the Toronto International Film Festival.

"We've had a good few months," says director McKenzie. "This kind of national recognition is a big deal for us, and a tribute to our entire cast and crew."

McKenzie and *When You Sleep* co-producer, MacDonald, have been friends since they attended high school together in New Waterford. Arriving at Saint Mary's in September 2003, they both majored in English with a minor in film studies.

"We knew that we wanted to make films," says Nelson, "but we decided it was important to learn about the world before we learned about using a camera. In the end, our philosophy classes at Saint Mary's have been as important to our work as any technical courses we've taken."

As an unconventional plug for philosophy courses, MacDonald and McKenzie's first film, *Rhonda's Party*, won best Canadian short at the Young Cuts Film Festival in Montreal; made CBC's 2011 Short Film Face-off; and received ranking from the Toronto International Film Festival as one of Canada's top 10 short films of 2011.

Both Nelson and McKenzie are quick to pay tribute to the many influential professors they had at Saint Mary's, and to express their appreciation for the invaluable guidance and support received from former Film Studies coordinator, John MacKinnon.

"Ashley and Nelson are very proud of their affiliation with Saint Mary's," says Dr. MacKinnon. "They're fine people and strikingly honest as film makers."

Now based in Halifax, the pair will celebrate their latest coup by scouting a location in Cape Breton for a gritty drama they're shooting this fall.

"We had to go away to learn," says McKenzie, "but the plan has always been to make films in New Waterford." □

Saint Mary's grad, Jeff Cusack (BA'10), had his camera rolling this spring when a simple show of support for a football team turned a quiet Belfast square into a noisy political protest.

"It was amazing to see this beautiful, peaceful square transform so quickly," said Cusack, an independent filmmaker who followed 14 Saint Mary's students participating in the seventh year of the University's Northern Ireland Conflict Resolution Project.

"It was really the perfect scene to illustrate how deeply political and religious tensions have crawled down into the everyday lives of the people."

From the late 1960s until 1998, fierce and violent clashes involving paramilitaries and security forces dominated life in Northern Ireland, leaving more than 3500 people dead. Today, while the daily violence is gone, the divide between Catholics and Protestants remains.

In Ireland, Cusack and his partner/director Everett Stone filmed more than 190 hours of footage that will serve as the

backbone for the documentary, *Belfast: Students in Conflict*, an effort to raise awareness about the continuing struggles of Northern Ireland as seen through the eyes of students trying to make a difference.

"It's my passion project," he says of the effort that has him sorting through footage and refining a script. It takes about 25 hours a week when he's not working at the IWK hospital. "It's pretty intense."

"Fundamentally this is a story about a society whose divisions became so deep that they lead to violence," says Cusack. "In a world that is becoming increasingly partisan, the lessons of Northern Ireland need to be understood now more than ever."

Cusack said he hopes the scenes with students laughing and playing alongside spiked, barbed wire fencing and protective glass barriers gives viewers pause to reflect.

"Some of these schools have things, like razor wire, that you would expect to find at a military base." □

Conceived and organized by Saint Mary's University's Conflict Resolution Advisor Bridget Brownlow, the Northern Ireland trips are rooted in Saint Mary's belief in the importance and relevance of engaged and experiential learning. In preparation for their 10 days in Belfast, students receive training in conflict resolution and have the opportunity to facilitate conflict resolution workshops with children and youth in local schools.

Cusack and Stone, still virtual unknowns in the film industry, raised \$5,000 for the project. The remainder will be financed on their credit cards.

The Saint Mary's community got a sneak peek at some of the footage on September 21 during a celebration marking a Peaceful Schools International event on campus.

"It was awesome," said Brownlow. "Now I can't wait to see the finished video."

Cusack hopes the final project will be completed by March 2013 and that the team will be able to announce a video or a television deal. □



# BELFAST: Students in Conflict

# Ready...Set...ACTION

On a sweltering July morning the lawn in front of the McNally building is uncharacteristically abuzz with activity. Giant, black screens bounce and diffuse light, camera operators jockey for position and a make-up artist checks the foreheads of a dozen actors sweating in the sun.

In an instant, the crew shooting the second season of the CBC hit comedy series *Mr. D* goes silent, and you can now hear every thud of a sneaker hitting the sidewalk as a student jogs by. She passes. The director calls, "Finals. Background... action Gerry!"

Comedian Gerry Dee walks in to frame as Mr. D and begins a scene with his on-screen students. His attempts to answer student questions with comically concocted answers are foiled when Jonathan Torrens joins the scene as Robert Cheeley, vice principal of Xavier Academy.

Inside a nearby tent a half-dozen members of the crew escape the heat and watch the action from two monitors, chuckling along as the scene is shot again and again, sometimes with just a subtle change of language or tone. With episodes taking several days to shoot, one scene can take up the better part of a morning.

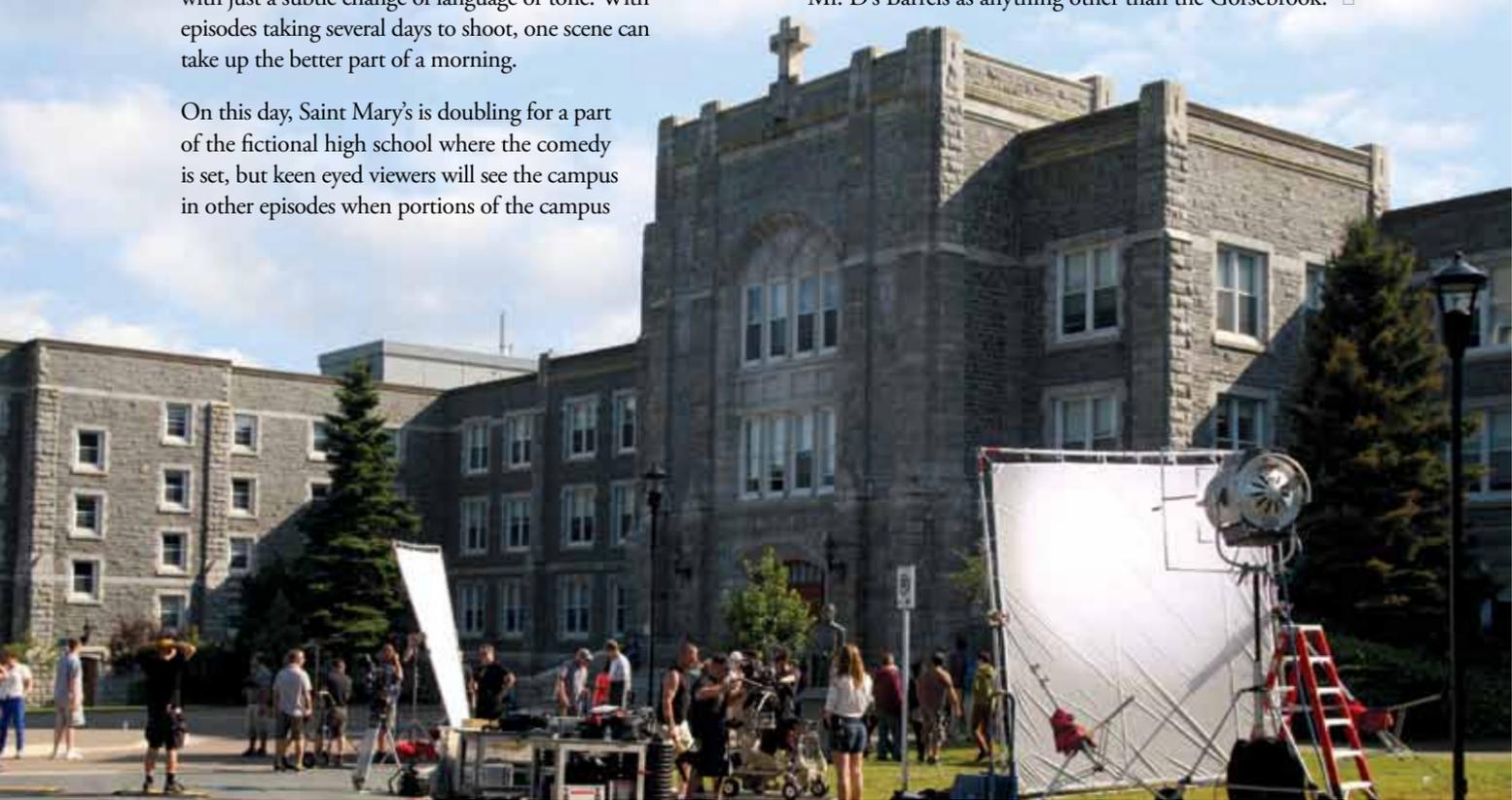
On this day, Saint Mary's is doubling for a part of the fictional high school where the comedy is set, but keen eyed viewers will see the campus in other episodes when portions of the campus

were transformed in to look like a medical clinic, an ivy league school in the U.S., and as the backdrop for a traffic accident. The Gorsebrook Lounge routinely doubles as Barrels, the pub where Mr. D and his colleagues gather. But it's not just the campus that has a connection to *Mr. D*, however.

The show's key makeup artist for season two is Amanda O'Leary, a Saint Mary's graduate of 1997 (BA Psychology) and its Executive Producer, Mike Volpe, graduated in 1989 with a BA in Political Science. He is best known for his work on the Trailer Park Boys series.

For O'Leary, the return to Saint Mary's was a bit of an eye-opener to the recent development on campus. "It's kind of surreal," she says. "I'm wowed at just how much the campus has changed. When I was here there was one computer in the library with a sign-up sheet and a 20 minute time limit to use it to write papers. I'm totally blown away to see how things have changed."

"I loved going to Saint Mary's and so it's hard for me to see Mr. D's Barrels as anything other than the Gorsebrook." □



## FOR UNCONVENTIONAL

*A Review of Mr. D by Assistant English Professor Dr. Jennifer VanderBurgh*



Usually, high school TV shows reassure kids that life will be okay. Standard take-home messages support the idea that people who work hard with good intentions will find their just rewards: lasting love and a good job. While high school is a place of struggle in these shows, the idea is that once teens figure out who they are "meant to be," life will get much easier.

Teachers in these shows, having already achieved a good job, present a narrative challenge. If they feature at all as characters, their obstacles are not usually to do with the job, but with social problems to be fixed by working at high school, essentially going back to learn what they missed the first time around.

When Pink Floyd demanded "no dark sarcasm in the classroom," (The Wall), they might have made an exception for Mr. D. The show's opening lyrics exemplify an ironically self-deprecating sense of humour.

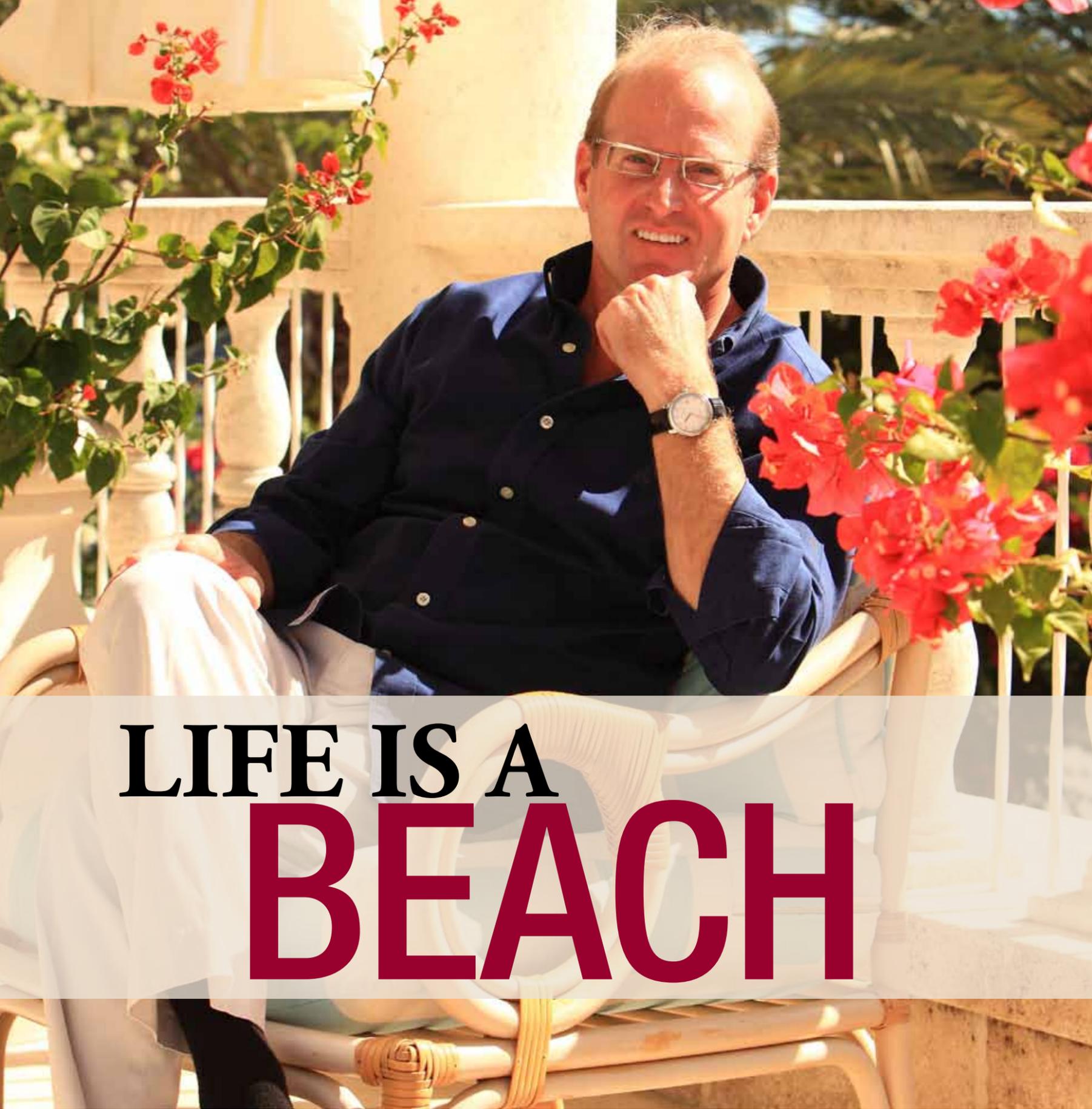
Faking his way through year one of teaching, Mr. D's main character, Mr. Duncan (Gerry Dee), advises female students not to swim in the ocean during their menses (sharks!) and proposes curriculum on the "underground railroad" (his definition: the subway). Unlike most shows about high school, students don't see classes as an obstacle to their social lives; they see Mr. Duncan as an impediment to their education.

Shot partly on-location at Saint Mary's, Mr. D is a fairly unconventional dramatic comedy about high school, loosely and hyperbolically based on the nine-year teaching career of stand-up comic, Gerry Dee.

Unlike conventional TV teachers, Mr. Duncan fails professionally and socially. As a trained gym teacher assigned to teach social studies, he is painfully inept. He teaches erroneous information with conviction and tries, usually inappropriately, to ingratiate himself to his students as a "cool" teacher.

Now, with season two in production, Mr. Duncan's job performance in season one is the "first offense on the mix." This phrase is from the legendary Canadian Hip Hop hit single, "Let Your Backbone Slide" (1989) by Wes William's (Maestro Fresh Wes) who plays Mr. Dwyer. He is the teacher whom students refer to with great affection as "Mr. D." Together, the two Mr. Ds function as opposites, and while viewers conveniently do not get to peer inside Mr. Dwyer's classroom to witness his exemplary teaching, he must be doing something right to earn the moniker, "Mr. D." □





# LIFE IS A BEACH

When Saint Mary’s alumnus, Stan Hartling (BComm’86, CA), turned his entrepreneurial eye to the Bayer’s Lake Business Park in the late 1980’s, there was nothing there except empty fields. Ignoring the advice of an industry professional who said the area was better suited for a campsite than a shopping centre, Hartling and his partners built the park’s first retail plaza.

“It was a calculated risk,” says Hartling, “and it certainly paid off.”

With that success under his belt, Hartling spent the next 5 years developing retail shopping malls, residential sub-divisions, large-scale storage facilities and multi-unit residential projects in Nova Scotia. Then, in 1997, he liquidated most of his projects and relocated to the tax-friendly, Turks & Caicos Islands, known now to many as the private enclave of the rich and famous.

“With the idyllic weather and pristine beaches, it’s truly a paradise for Canadians,” he says.

Hartling could have spent his days sipping pina colodas. Instead, he founded the Hartling Group, a real estate sales and development firm, which has pioneered almost \$300 million worth of property development and earned a slew of awards including a Lifetime Achievement Award (Star Awards); Developer of the Year (Caribbean World Home and Living Magazine); and and the prestigious Best Spa Resort, Caribbean for the Regent Palms Resort (World Travel Awards).

“I saw opportunities in the Turks & Caicos,” says CEO Hartling. “With direct flights from Toronto and New York, travel time compares favourably to the drive to a summer cottage.”

Hartling asked himself what would convince people to invest in the Turks & Caicos and found his answer in a rental/ownership concept that was gaining momentum at the time.

“People like the idea of having a holiday home, but they don’t want the responsibility of looking after it. They also like the idea of generating income when they’re not using it.”

In 1996, he purchased a parcel of beachfront land in Providenciales and got to work as general contractor on The Sands at Grace Bay, a 90-unit condo resort that is maintained by his management team and rented out when owners are not in residence.

After completing The Sands in December 1998, Hartling and local partners took on two major projects: The Palms on Grace Bay, a \$95 million luxury condo development that sold out in the first six months; and The Shore Club, a 36-unit, low density, villa complex slated for construction in the near future. Next on the horizon are some high-end private villas with their own courtyards, pools, maids and chefs.

“In the Turks & Caicos there’s a lack of structure that I really enjoy,” says Hartling with a grin. “Doing business here is more like solving a puzzle than following a rule book.”

Many clues to the puzzle are found in community involvement. The Hartling Group has provided a kidney dialysis machine for the main island and a 10-seater van for a local orphanage. And Hartling, himself, works with the Turks & Caicos AIDS Awareness Foundation and as a board member for the National Museum.

There are challenges in navigating island life, and in being involved with everything from concept drawings and construction to sales, but Hartling is well equipped to handle them, thanks—in part—to an influential accounting professor at Saint Mary’s, who demonstrated that accounting is about far more than numbers.

“As an arts-type, I had planned to get through my commerce degree by avoiding accounting as much as possible,” recalls Hartling, “but one of my professors had other ideas. “You can’t learn management from a book,” he said, “but if I teach you accounting, you’ll leave here with a real skill you can use in business.”

It seems that professor was right on the mark because despite the turbulence of financial markets, there’s clearly promise for Stan Hartling in the newly charted waters of upscale Caribbean condominium development.

# THE GRAD NEAR IPANEMA

*Sanjeev Chowdhury  
(BComm'89)*

Sanjeev Chowdhury (BComm'89) works the room like a seasoned performer, yet there's an earnestness behind the flash—an unmistakable sense of sincerity that emanates from the 43-year-old Consul General of Canada to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

It's June 2012, and Chowdhury, once described by the *Mumbai Times* as “the dashing young ambassador from Canada,” and more recently by the *Rio Times* as one of the “Top 10 Foreigners to make an impact in Rio in 2011,” is addressing the Rotary Club of Halifax Northwest as part of a four day, four city tour in the Atlantic Provinces.

“I feel like I'm on tour with Madonna,” jokes the Saint Mary's alumnus, beaming a smile at University President, J. Colin Dodds, “although my schedule in Atlantic Canada is slightly more hectic.”

Chowdhury is in Atlantic Canada to build on shared interests that exist between Brazil and Canada and has an especially receptive audience in this group of Rotarians. It was the Halifax Northwest Club that, in 1989, sponsored the Saint Mary's University Student Association President to a one-year Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship at the American Graduate School of International Management.

After graduating from the American school at the top of his MBA class, Chowdhury joined the Canadian Foreign Service, starting in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade as an officer with the G-7 Summit.

Subsequent postings included assistant trade commissioner in Mumbai and consul general in Ho Chi Minh City, where the “Sanjeev Chowdhury Physiotherapy Centre” exists as a legacy to Chowdhury's tireless fund-raising for children suffering from deformities caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

Returning to Ottawa in 2006 to direct operations on the Afghanistan Task Force at the Privy Council Office, Chowdhury received Canada's “2006 Foreign Service Officer Award,” peer recognition for his achievements in representing and promoting Canada in Vietnam.

Since setting up shop in an office that overlooks Copacabana Beach, he has dedicated much of his time to building a community that involves the 500 or so Canadian nationals who live and work in Rio and a establishing a vital support for Canadian visitors to Brazil—a number estimated by the Consulate to exceed 50,000 a year.

With almost \$6 billion in bilateral trade between Brazil and Canada and Canada's ranking as destination of choice for Brazilian students (more than 17,000 in 2010), Chowdhury has a taxing role as Rio's Consul General.

“Brazilians don't do business with corporations,” says Chowdhury. “They do business with people. If they learn over my three-year term that Canadians can be valued and trusted business partners, and if I can get more Canadians to take a look at this exciting market, then I will consider my time in Brazil a success.” □

# Putting OTHERS FIRST

By Marie Weeren

*Jane Roy (BComm'84), Founder,  
Catapult Leadership Society*

Jane Roy (BComm'84) doesn't much like getting her picture taken. She'd probably prefer to pass on an interview, too. In short, she's not a spotlight seeker. But she was willing to do this story in support of the organization she founded for youth who “have strong potential but few opportunities.”

The cornerstone of Catapult Leadership Society is its annual summer leadership camp for 50 students from across Nova Scotia who are entering Grade 10. The first camp was held in 2009. Plans are underway to expand the organization's offerings so camp participants can continue to learn and grow with Catapult programming throughout their high school years.

Roy, who chairs the society's board and works at the camp, says Catapult has “probably been the most rewarding thing I've ever done.”

It's also been a family affair with her husband, John (BComm'82), cheering her on since Catapult's inception and her son and daughter volunteering as camp counsellors.

“I hope that we can make a real difference in 50 students every year and those 50 go on to affect other people, so that there's this huge pay forward effect that we will never be able to measure. We hope and dream that that's what happens,” Roy says. “I can say I know it's happened, just from some of the stories that the kids and the parents have told me already.”

She has also influenced those who work with her, including camp director Julian Maynard. “I admire her effortless, energetic way of making something happen that she believes in. It's very contagious and inspiring,” he says. “She's a leader unlike any I've seen. She can see beyond the obstacles to the ultimate goal and then bring us to that goal.”

Roy, a Fellow Chartered Accountant, received the 2009 Ross L. Towler CA of the Year Award from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia in recognition of her volunteerism.

She was founding chair of the Provincial Autism Centre (now Autism Nova Scotia) and creator and founding chair of the then Maritime Medical Care Challenge, a special event involving war canoe races which, in its 15 years, raised over \$1.5 million for the IWK and Ronald McDonald House.

She has given greatly to her community, but Roy says she has received much more.

“It just enriches your life in every way you can think of—through the people that you meet, through the experiences, what you learn about yourself, what you learn about other people, and how not to take all the good things in your life for granted.” □



# 2012

# Homecoming



1. Huskies 5k Fun Run Participants celebrating their success. 2. Scott Flewelling (Bcomm'87) Joe Doucette (BSc'77), Chris Hartt (BComm'86), Roy Naugler (BComm'87) 3. Mike McKenzie, President, Saint Mary's Alumni Association, Marie Smyth, 1962 Golden Grad; one of the first women to graduate from Saint Mary's, and Saint Mary's University President, Dr. J. Colin. Dodds at the Golden Grad Luncheon. 4. 1987 Silver Grads Luncheon. 5. Alumni Association, President, Mike McKenzie (BComm'80) and Catapult Founder, Jane Roy (BComm'84). 6. l to r: Golden Grads Gary Vigneau, Ervin Doak, Ned Nash, Louis Comeau, William Gorman, Wayne Keddy, Peter Sampson, and Marie Smyth. 7. 2009 Catapult Camper and 1st year Saint Mary's student, Sandrio Provo, 2009 Catapult Camper, Andrew Ottis, 2010 Catapult Campers, Martha Barrett, Mehdi Abdulrahman, Catapult speaker and One World Alumni Dinner, Emcee William Njoku (BA'94), and 2009 Catapult Camper Jordan Burke at the One World Alumni Dinner.

On Thursday, September 20th, Saint Mary's Alumni and friends gathered in the Loyola Conference Hall to raise money for some exceptional students. The One World Alumni Dinner kicked off Homecoming 2012 and helped raise money for the Catapult Leadership Society, a camp dedicated to fostering and growing youth in Nova Scotia. Jane Roy (BComm'84), founder and camp director of Catapult described her early experiences at Saint Mary's.

"I was a Catapult kid myself, and I think it was Saint Mary's where I finally started to find myself and develop my confidence."

Roy created the camp because she didn't want students to wait until university to reach their full potential. During the dinner Jane spoke of the hundreds of kids the organization has helped and the hundreds that they hope to help with the expansion of the program.

"When our Catapulters go back home...a lot of them get involved with their school councils...and some kids we lose... which is part of the reason we are expanding, so we don't lose any more kids."

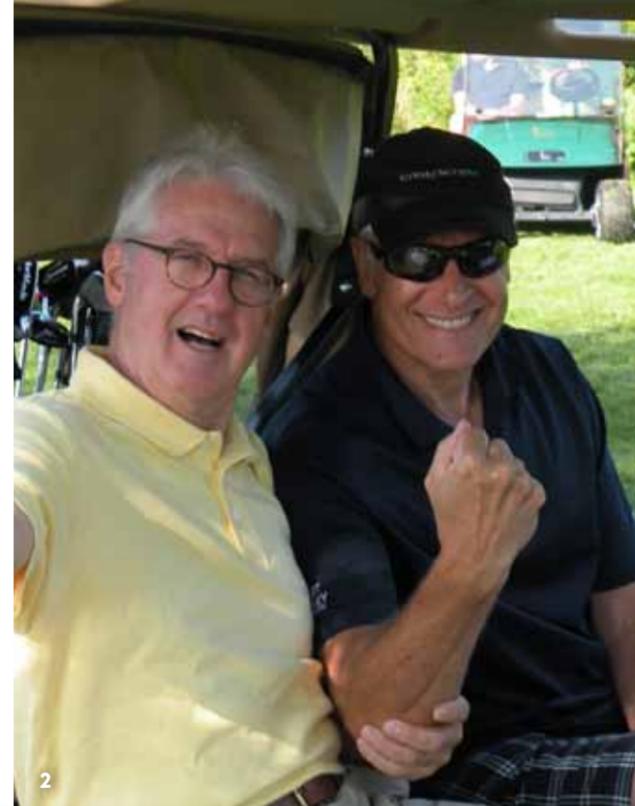
The organization plans to offer mentorship opportunities, high school to university transitioning, summer conferences and more. For more information on the Catapult Leadership Society, visit [www.catapultcamp.com](http://www.catapultcamp.com)

On Friday, we celebrated our Golden Grads of 1962. Each year, the President hosts a luncheon to celebrate grads who have been alumni for 50 years plus. In the early 1960s, Saint Mary's opened its door to female students, and in 1968 SMU graduated its first female student.

Saturday was a day to celebrate, reflect and cheer on our Huskies. The day opened with the Sport Hall of Fame induction for Don Murphy, Robert, "Puddy" Reardon and Bill Scollard. Following the induction was the 1987 Silver Grad Booster lunch in the Gorsebrook pub. After lunch, grads cheered on the Huskies during the Homecoming Football game. The 1987 grad class came back to campus from all over North America. The reunion was organized by Bob Ferguson (BComm'87) and Scott Flewelling (BComm'87).

Homecoming wrapped with the Huskies 5K Fun Run. Friends, family, students and alumni came out to run in what turned out to be a beautiful day. Top racers were Jeff Gaetz, Ashley Ryan, and David Wilson. Thank you to everyone that joined us for Homecoming 2012. We can't wait to see you at our next event!

Visit [www.smu.ca/alumni](http://www.smu.ca/alumni) to learn more about the One World Alumni Dinner and to download the 2013 nomination form. □



# Alumni Events



1. Enactus students Jonathan Gibson, Brett Matheson, Kyle Rogers and Kaitlyn Touesnard on the Tall Ship Roseway for a private reception.
2. Senator Wilfred P. Moore (LLD, BComm'64) and Mick Ryan (BComm'69) ready to hit the greens.
3. Dana Duncanson (BComm'08), Saveena Saran (BA'10), Phuc Tran (BSc'11) and Sunjoyo Tanto (BComm'07) at the Toronto Chapter Pub Night at Fionn MacCool's.
4. Blair Hurlbut (BComm'84), Brian Arthur (BComm'84) and Kim Brown at the Calgary reception with Nexen CEO, Kevin Reinhart (BComm'81).

# 2012 Alumni Awards

The annual Alumni Awards were presented at a private reception in the Saint Mary's Art Gallery as part of Homecoming 2012. The recipients were nominated by their peers, colleagues, and friends for their outstanding contribution to Saint Mary's. For further details on each award, please visit [www.smu.ca/alumni](http://www.smu.ca/alumni).

**Distinguished Service Award**

Fred George (LLD'11)  
 Alex Handyside (MBA'00)  
 Scott C. Norton, QC

**Volunteer of the Year**

Bob Warner (BA'74)

**Young Alumni Award**

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

**Associate Alumni**

Wally Bowes

**Fr William A. Stewart, S.J., Medal of Excellence in Teaching**

Dr. Colleen Barber, Biology Department

*l to r: Saint Mary's Alumni Association President Mike McKenzie, Saeed El-Darahali, Alex Handyside, Dr. J. Colin Dodds, Dr. Fred George, Bob Warner, Wally Bowes, Dr. Colleen Barber, Saint Mary's Alumni Association Past President Stephen Kelly.*

**Visit [www.smu.ca/alumni](http://www.smu.ca/alumni) for more photos from other Alumni Events!**

# Thank you to our golf sponsors!

On behalf of the Saint Mary's University Alumni Association, and our twenty bursary recipients, we would like to thank all of our golfers, sponsors, volunteers, Granite Springs Golf Club, and everyone else who helped to make this year's tournament a success!

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Saint Mary's University Alumni



The greens were fast, the fairways narrow, and the tales were tall as more than 100 supporters of students and student athletes sliced, hooked, and putted their way through 18-holes at the Annual Alumni Golf Tournament at Granite Springs Golf and Country Club on August 23.

"The weather couldn't have been better and the golfers couldn't have been more supportive," said tournament organizer Monica Njoku. "I think everyone appreciated not only the golf, but the opportunity to meet some of the bright students who benefit from the money the event raises."

Twenty student athletes, each one of whom received a \$1000 bursary as a result of the tournament, were on hand to help with the tournament and to chat about their future.

Anastasia Callahan, a Saint Mary volleyball star, told guests attending the tournament banquet that the bursary she received will allow her to pay rent and purchase some key textbooks.

"This kind of support allows each of us to focus on school and to train for our sport without the stress of balancing a job—or at least a second job—to make ends meet."

While the students were the real winners of the day, the team that played most spectacularly on the course and went home with the tournament championship was team Coca Cola composed of Bobby Johnstone, Graeme Mackenzie, Derek Darcy, Jonathan Boody, and Matt Bishop.

Aecon, Canada's largest public construction and infrastructure development company, was the tournament's major sponsor. It has agreed to sponsor the tournament next year as well. □

**Reserve the date now: August 22, 2013 at the Granite Springs Golf and Country Club.**

above: Third year Saint Mary's student Corey Mattie gets a lesson on chipping from Halifax businessman and Honorary degree holder Dr. Fred George during the Annual Alumni Golf Tournament held August 23 at Granite Springs Golf and Country Club.

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## FACES of SPORT at Saint Mary's

There are many stories behind the three new portraits hanging in Saint Mary's Sport Hall of Fame and Heritage Centre, and countless characters who contributed to the making of sporting legends Bill Scollard, Robert "Puddy" Reardon and Don Murphy.

All-Star Receiver and football captain, Bill Scollard (BComm'89), was the shy one—at least when he arrived at Saint Mary's in 1985. But, he blossomed under the watchful eye of Coach Larry Uteck, playing on three AUS Championship teams and three Atlantic Bowls, including a 1988 Bowl win that took the Huskies to the 24th Vanier Cup game at Varsity Stadium in Toronto, where Scollard was awarded Most Outstanding Offensive Player.

"I don't know where I would be without Saint Mary's," said Scollard, now the Key Account Manager for Labatt, when addressing the 150 friends, family, and fans in attendance at a ceremony for his induction into Saint Mary's Sport Hall of Fame and Heritage Centre.

"The skills I learned in class and on the field set the table for me socially, academically, and in the corporate world."

Sharing the stage with Scollard at that ceremony were fellow inductees, Don Murphy and Robert "Puddy" Reardon, also exceptional athletes, role models, and natural leaders.

"It feels like this is my Olympic gold medal," said Reardon, in a short speech following the unveiling of his portrait. "Saint Mary's has been a huge part of my life, and this is another moment to cherish."

One of the best student athletes at Saint Mary's High School in the 1940s, Reardon advanced to Saint Mary's College, where he excelled in curling, baseball, football, and hockey. He led the College's legendary Junior Hockey team to three consecutive Maritime championships, beginning in 1946.

Induction into the Sport Hall of Fame and Heritage Centre was also an Olympic-class event for football great, Don Murphy. Lauded as the best defensive player in Canadian University football, Murphy piled up honours as an all-Canadian at the linebacker position, an Atlantic Conference All-Star, and runner-up for League Rookie of the Year. He played briefly in the CFL before an injury redirected his considerable talents to a 25-year career as a teacher and school principal. □

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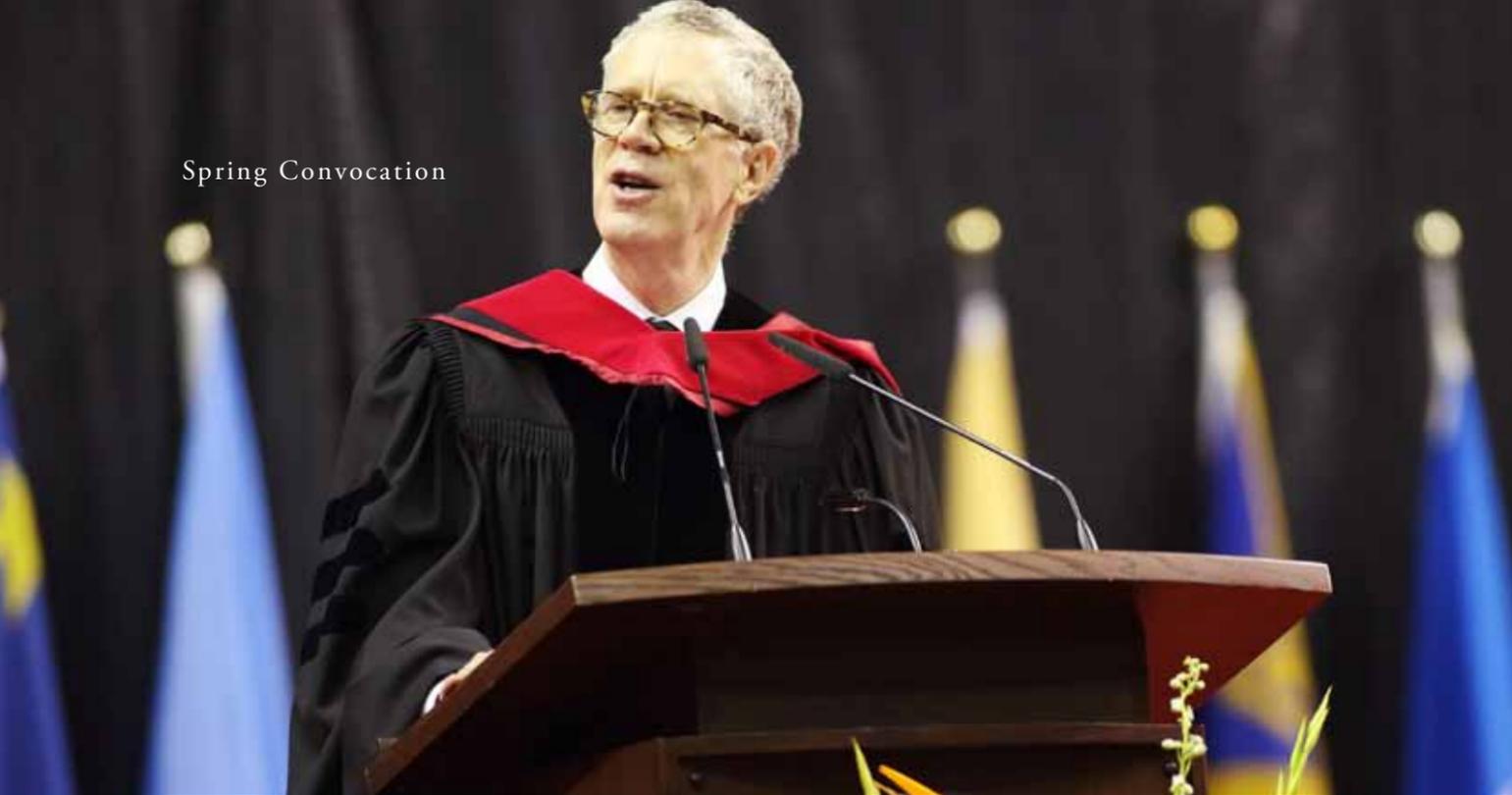
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Sasha Power is a science peer mentor in the Saint Mary's LEAP program

# FOLLOW YOUR *Heart's Desire*

In the 1996 film, *Jerry Maguire*, Tom Cruise made the saying "Show Me the Money" a popular catchphrase for a generation.

But CBC storyteller, author, and Honorary degree recipient Stuart McLean, says the actor got it all wrong. McLean told the 900 graduates at Spring Convocation at the Halifax Metro Centre that the pursuit of money is a big waste of time.

"Instead, focus on following your heart's desire. Follow your instincts or your tummy, and you will be happy wherever you end up," he said. "If you are happy, the money will look after itself."

He reassured graduates that the uncertainty they might be feeling is not a bad thing, especially if they surround themselves with people who expect a great deal from them.

"You don't have to know the final stop in your journey, only the next one."

And you shouldn't fear failure either, added Dragons' Den celebrity investor Arlene Dickinson, who also received an Honorary degree at the ceremony.

"Learn from your failure. Live by your principles, and do not be bullied or manipulated by someone who thinks they know better. Stick fast to what you believe in. Speak up for what you know is right," she said.

During the Convocation ceremonies, four other prominent leaders were presented Honorary Degrees in recognition of their commitment to the community. They were: Mayann E. Francis, the former Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia; Robert Pace, communications entrepreneur; Jim Lotz, a trailblazer in community development; and Dennis Deters, a renowned leader in the cooperative sector. □

Universities have a range of supports for first year students who face a variety of transitional issues. Thanks to generous funds from The Windsor Foundation, Saint Mary's is expanding a proactive two-year pilot program that addresses these issues before they occur.

Designed to create a sense of connectedness, the LEAP program (Learning, Engagement, Achievement, and Peer Mentors) links first year students in six Faculty-based learning communities in Arts, Business and Science, each comprised of 30 students. With the support of a senior student who acts as a Peer Mentor, and a series of workshops on learning strategies, new students find it easier to establish the academic, social, and life skills essential to post-secondary success.

## PREPARING THE CANVAS

*Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others.* Jonathan Swift

"The LEAP peer mentor and buddy system made my transition to University infinitely better than I expected," says Mary Sasha Power, a LEAP Science student from 2011. "Having an older student to go to for help and seeing a bunch of familiar faces in those giant lecture halls eased my anxieties and allowed me to focus on succeeding."

This fall, Mary Sasha Power returned to the LEAP program as a Science peer mentor. Third-year Science student, Katie Ryan, who mentored Mary Sasha in 2011-2012, also returned. Ryan recommends the LEAP Program to every first year student attending Saint Mary's University. "I believe it provides new students with a head start and strengthens their academic achievements," she says. □

Learn what's happening with your classmates and other friends of Saint Mary's by browsing our *Snippets*. Share your own successes and personal milestones by e-mailing a brief update to: [alumni@smu.ca](mailto:alumni@smu.ca)

## 2007

**Major G.A. (Sandy) Watson (MBA)** received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal from the Lieutenant Governor on June 15th. He is employed by the Canadian Forces as a part-time instructor for the Canadian Army Command and Staff College in Kingston, Ontario. Watson is also employed full-time at the Maritime Forces Atlantic in Formation Human Resources and attends Canadian Forces College in Toronto as a part-time student to complete the last requirements of a Bachelor of Military Arts and Science degree at Royal Military College.



*l to r: Honour Brigadier-General The Honourable J.J. Grant, CMM, ONS, CD (Ret'd), Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia and past Honorary Aide-de-Camp, Major G.A. Sandy Watson, CD. Image courtesy: Communications Nova Scotia*

## 1992



**Rick Ralph (BComm)** is now the Winnipeg Jets pregame, intermission, and post-game host on the radio station, TSN 1290. He co-hosts an NHL hockey show throughout the NHL season on TSN 1290 and [www.TSN1290.ca](http://www.TSN1290.ca)

## 1989

**Michelle Kan (BComm)** is a Registered Canada Immigration Consultant. Her primary market is China, but she also serves clients throughout Asia. She is currently based in Hong Kong.

## 1988

**Sally Stuike, nee Thomas, (BA)** has accepted a position as a consultant with the National Public Relations office in Calgary, AB, where she and her husband reside.

## 1955



**Harley Frowd (BComm)** and wife, Fay, celebrated 50 years of marriage on August 25th. They were married at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Halifax, N.S. and they reside in Halifax. Best wishes come from their son Tracy (BA'86), son Kevin (BComm'93) and daughter-in-law Tanya (BA'02), and grandson Ethan.

## In Memoriam

**Robert Boyd**  
BComm'79, MBA'81  
May 4, 2012

**Robert Chiasson, CA**  
BComm'56  
June 16, 2012

**Rev. Joseph Christensen**  
BA'66  
August 14, 2012

**James Cottenden**  
BComm'70  
July 18, 2012

**Dr. Frederick Dockrill**  
BA'57, BEd'61, MA'64  
May 7, 2012

**Stephen Dunn**  
DipEng'75, EMBA'92  
May 27, 2012

**Mark Haenlein**  
BComm'00  
June 21, 2012

**J. Lynch, SJ**  
DIPEGN'43, BSc'44  
August 18, 2012

**Alexander MacDonald**  
BA'00  
June 17, 2012

**Dana MacGillivray**  
BComm'01  
July 29, 2012

**Charles Martin, Jr.**  
BComm'04  
May 1, 2012

**Linda Ruth McAllister**  
BA'75, BEd'76  
August 30, 2012

**Gerald Scallion**  
BComm'39  
August 7, 2012

## With Sympathy

**Rev. J. Murray Abraham**  
August 28, 2012

**Greg Blanchard**  
August 25, 2012

**Donald Courtney**  
April 22, 2012

**Erna Crowe**  
July 17, 2012

**Margaret Dunsworth**  
September 23, 2012

**Hugh Erskine**  
August 18, 2012

**Ruth Goldbloom, OC**  
August 29, 2012

**Pamela Gray**  
April 13, 2012

**Donald Johnson**  
May 12, 2012

**J. Kinley**  
May 1, 2012

**Dr. John MacCormack**  
May 12, 2012

**John Mackriss**  
June 25, 2012

**Theodore Whitney**  
May 14, 2012

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*Dave Gunning*

*By Cathy von Kintzel  
photo: Mat Dunlap*

# First Big Gig in Halifax at The Gorsebrook

It was exam time. Dave Gunning knew full well he should have been cracking the books instead of making music.

Overcome by procrastination and a song idea, he'd forsaken his finance texts and reached instead for the acoustic guitar he kept under his dorm-room bed on the 14th floor of Loyola Hall at Saint Mary's University.

The next day's exam was all but forgotten in the melodies and inspired lyrics that seemed to flow so easily that winter night in 1993, and the piece that emerged, *Heading Home*, became what the acclaimed folk singer now regards as his first "good" song. It became the first track on his first CD, *Lost Tracks*, released in 1996, and was nominated for an East Coast Music Award.

Gunning, a third-year Commerce student from Pictou County, had been listening to a lot of Stan Rogers' music.

"I was starting to miss the rootsy things about home," he says. "The whole university experience is very intense. My mind was ramped up. I was feeling a lot of emotion."

Other students' musical tastes, often heard through the doors of the residence's elevator as it moved from floor to floor, ranged from The Tragically Hip to Stompin' Tom Connors.

Still, this new song, sung and played that night for "the guys" on the 14th floor, had members of the highly impressed, impromptu audience waging a campaign to get Gunning a gig at the campus pub, The Gorsebrook.

"They were on a mission," recalls Gunning, who passed his exam the next day and, in short order, had three sets on stage at the campus pub. He knew hundreds of cover tunes and was

no stranger to the stage, having played to Pictou County area audiences since he was 15.

"But, that was my first big Halifax gig," he says. "The place was jammed with students, as well as supporters from back home."

It was just the beginning. Before he knew it, he was performing 12 nights a month throughout the city, and earning enough money to cover tuition and rent.

Music became a priority, but it didn't keep Gunning from graduating with a Bachelor Degree in Commerce in 1995, with a major in Marketing. He's one Accounting course short of a double major in Management.

"I have a lot of great memories of Saint Mary's," he says.

As co-owner of the recording studio, Wee House of Music, and with nine CDs to his credit, including the new release, *No More Pennies*, Gunning has successfully merged his business education with his musical talents. He's performed internationally both as a soloist and with his band. He's also toured with such artists as J.P. Cormier, Stompin' Tom Connors, and John Allan Cameron.

Time and success have given this talented, musical story teller the ability to focus more on singing and songwriting. He performs close to 200 shows a year, and has just embarked upon *No More Pennies*, a promotional tour of the Maritimes, Ontario, Western Canada, and Australia.

Travel is a given in the music business, and much like the character in his first song, Gunning looks forward to heading home to Pictou County, where he lives with his wife, Sara DeLoup, and their three young boys. □

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](mailto:alumni@smu.ca), and you could be featured in a future issue.

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**– Lekha Patmanathan**  
**Saint Mary's University Graduate**  
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