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Playing it Forward

Leroy Fontaine Puts New Spin on Football



SPRING 2013

Also: Sibling Rivalry | Rania Llewellyn: Smashing Success | Banking on Mongolia

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I share with you a sense of pride in Saint Mary's University. From our early beginnings we have grown to become a diverse, and well-respected institution that's as rich in tradition as it is in promise.

In the following pages of Maroon & White, you will see the impact we're making, both on campus and off, and you'll read about some enterprising alumni as far away as Mongolia.

I would like to thank Mike McKenzie for his efforts this past year as President of Saint Mary's Alumni Association. I am also happy to welcome to the University's Board of Governors our new Chair, John Fitzpatrick, Q.C., a partner with BOYNECLARKE in Halifax; and Vice Chair, Karen Oldfield, President and CEO of the Halifax Port Authority.

I believe that Saint Mary's continued advancement depends upon the commitment and leadership of alumni such as Mike, John and Karen; and I invite you to make your own contribution by staying connected and helping to support the initiatives of our Alumni Office.

Sincerely,

Dr. J. Colin Dodds
President and Vice-Chancellor



In my first year as President of Saint Mary's University Alumni Association, I have been in touch with alumni from around the world, and I've gained a deeper appreciation for the power of social media and digital communication to keep us connected. From Facebook "likes" to email updates, staying in touch keeps the Saint Mary's family strong and engaged.

I'd encourage you to get involved with your local chapter, whether it's in Halifax, Toronto or Hong Kong, and to consider becoming a member of Alumni Council. Applications will be accepted until Friday July 12, so please visit the Alumni website for more information.

I'd also encourage you to attend Alumni events, including 2013 Homecoming, and to contact our Alumni Office for help coordinating and funding events for grad year reunions. We'd love to help.

In closing, I would like to thank Alumni staff for making my first year as president one to remember. I look forward to more excitement in the near future and to working on your behalf to keep us connected—to Saint Mary's—and to each other.

Yours truly,

Michael McKenzie
President, Saint Mary's University Alumni Association

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

While it has been 55 years since I graduated, I continue to have warm feelings for the University and the educational experience it provided me with.

Now retired, I am living in the beautiful Berkshires of western Massachusetts and wintering in Florida. I am still in good health and playing golf. I welcome receiving the alumni magazine and read it cover to cover with delight.

Ed Burke, B.A. '57

Dear Editor,

It's been many years I graduated in 1957 and I don't see too many of my old school friends, but I really do enjoy receiving the Maroon and White. Keep it coming please. It is very informative and I occasionally get to see where some of my former classmates now live, like Texas.

When I attended Saint Mary's it was all Jesuits that taught us. There were no lay teachers and only one building. I did manage to play some football back then, and I still feel the effects of some of those games.

Jim Cosgrove '57





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Kelly Thompson



Kathi Thompson



Dr. David Murphy



Darrell Rooney



Karen Foster

KELLY THOMPSON – Thompson joined the University in January as the new InBalance Health and Wellness program coordinator. Working out of the Homburg Centre for Health & Wellness, she is looking at ways to help the Saint Mary's community embrace a holistic approach to healthy living. With the campus going entirely tobacco-free in September 2013, she is spearheading the effort to help smokers butt out over the next few months. Prior to joining Saint Mary's, she worked as a Project Manager and Community Health Board Coordinator with Capital Health.

DARRELL ROONEY – Rooney has served as the new Senior Director, Financial Services, since early December. He is a Chartered Accountant with considerable experience in leadership of financial services. Before coming to Saint Mary's, he held increasingly senior roles in companies including Pacrim Hospitality Services, Transcontinental, Optipress, Blue Cove Group, and Grant Thornton. As the senior financial expert, he will play a key role in the evolution of the University's financial strategy.

KATHI THOMPSON – After serving as an ESL instructor at the TESL Centre, and a Student Support Specialist in the ESL Drop-in Service, Thompson was recently named Coordinator, International Student Success, a new position focused on identifying and implementing programs and services to support international student success.

With over three decades of experience in cross-cultural settings, Thompson is uniquely positioned to assist Saint Mary's with this initiative.

KAREN FOSTER – As the recipient of a prestigious Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship, Foster could have continued her academic career at any leading graduate school. She chose Saint Mary's because her post-doctoral research work on productivity was a good fit with the exciting research already being done at the Sobey School of Business. The move to the Management department is a step outside her usual discipline of Sociology, but she says it is paying off as she is exposed to different kinds of research and teaching. In addition to productivity, she writes extensively about the challenge of the Y generation in the workforce.

DR. DAVID MURPHY – A former Director of Athletics and Recreation at Saint Mary's University, Dr. Murphy returned to the director's role in September. Dr. Murphy led the department for five years in the mid-2000s before moving on to the top athletics job at Simon Fraser University. He completed a three-year contract with the B.C. University before returning to Saint Mary's. A 1966 Arts grad, he quarterbacked the Huskies football team to an Atlantic Bowl title in 1964. He continued his involvement with the Huskies serving as offensive coordinator on the 1973 Vanier Cup championship team. He also served on the University's Board of Governors in the 1980s. □

new faces

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10

cool things
that happened on campus



5 WALK INTO A PAINTING

An unusual art exhibit held in an unconventional venue provided more than 400 members of the public an opportunity to fly above a tropical garden, dig in the dirt by a giant mushroom, and stand inside a robin's egg. Six works by 3-D artist Lisa Frank of the University of Illinois were displayed in the University's data cave, a facility normally used by astrophysics researchers to model galactic phenomena.

Visitors who took in the event not only marvelled at the immersive experience, and the beauty of the digitally manipulated nature photographs, but also said they were struck by how the partnership of art and science could produce such an uplifting experience.

1 ATHLETIC AWARDS BONANZA

Saint Mary's University nabbed an unprecedented number of national athletic honours this season, capturing three Canadian Interuniversity Sport Player of the Year awards and two CIS Coach of the Year trophies. With only a dozen top awards up for grabs, Athletics and Recreation Director Dr. David Murphy said no other school can claim more success than Saint Mary's. The winners:

Justine Colley of East Preston led the league in scoring for the third year, breaking numerous AUS and Saint Mary's records along the way. She became the first Atlantic conference player to win the CIS Player of the Year in Women's Basketball.

Lucas Bloodoff, a native of Castlegar, B.C., became the third player in Saint Mary's history to win the CIS Player of the Year in Men's Hockey. The third-year forward led the AUS in scoring with 38 points in 28 games.

Anastasia Callaghan, a third-year volleyball player from Truro, was named CIS libero of the Year. A third-year junior, she led the country in the defensive specialist position. A first-team AUS all-star, the science student guided the Huskies (10-8) to a second-place finish in the conference standings.

Scott Munro became the first Saint Mary's coach to win the CIS Coach of the Year for Women's basketball. Now in his fifth season at the helm of the Huskies program, he took the team to the national championships where it came away with CIS bronze.

Trevor Stienburg was named CIS Men's Hockey Coach of the Year after guiding the Huskies to a second-place finish in the Atlantic conference. It was his third win.

Saint Mary's is equally proud of our student-athletes who excel in both academics and athletics. This year 57 varsity athletes were recognized as Academic All-Canadians by maintaining a GPA equivalent to A- or better.

2 STAR POWER

Every semester extraordinary speakers find their way to campus to share insights on topics ranging from leadership to forensic analysis. High profile speakers from the last few months have included former Dragon Brett Wilson, who spoke about the importance of philanthropy; Gail Vaz-Oxlade, host of Til Debt Do Us Part, who shared her direct brand of financial advice from her new book *Money Rules*; and celebrated Canadian author David Adams Richards, who read from sections of his 1976 novel, *Blood Ties*.

3 BOOK 'EM

When CBC staff members went looking for "books" for a human library event at the Keshen Goodman Library, they borrowed two from Saint Mary's University: physics professor Dr. Adam Sarty and forensic anthropologist Dr. Tanya Peckmann. Checked out in 20-minute blocks, both

Peckmann and Sarty proved "a good read", captivating library patrons with real life adventure stories of nuclear physics and crime scene investigation.

4 NEW LOOK TO NORTH EAST CAMPUS

The new building at the heart of a \$15 million redevelopment of the Saint Mary's North East campus is coming to life. As the trees set their canopy for the summer, their leaves are reflected in the smoky blue-grey glass that serves as a signature design element for the three storey building. By September the new building will be home to the Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) program and the Business Development Centre (BDC), which is currently located off-campus.

The development will create an environment for applied and experiential learning, leadership development and international connections under one roof.

CANCER AND THE COSMOS

Dr. Rituparna Kanungo's newest research collaboration has some lofty goals: improve cancer research, stimulate the manufacturing of high-tech Canadian-made instrumentation and help explain the origin of the cosmos.

The Saint Mary's nuclear physicist moved one step closer to success in January when the federal government announced \$1.6 million in support for an advanced research facility that will allow her to recreate, purify, and condition rare isotopes that haven't existed on the planet for millions of years.

Studying these short-lived isotopes holds the key, not only for understanding the rules that govern the basic ingredients of our everyday lives, but also for crafting new therapies that could annihilate cancers cell-by-cell within the human body, she says. Federal funding through the Canada Foundation for Innovation, together with additional provincial and private sector investment, will allow the \$4.5 million project to be operational in 2015.

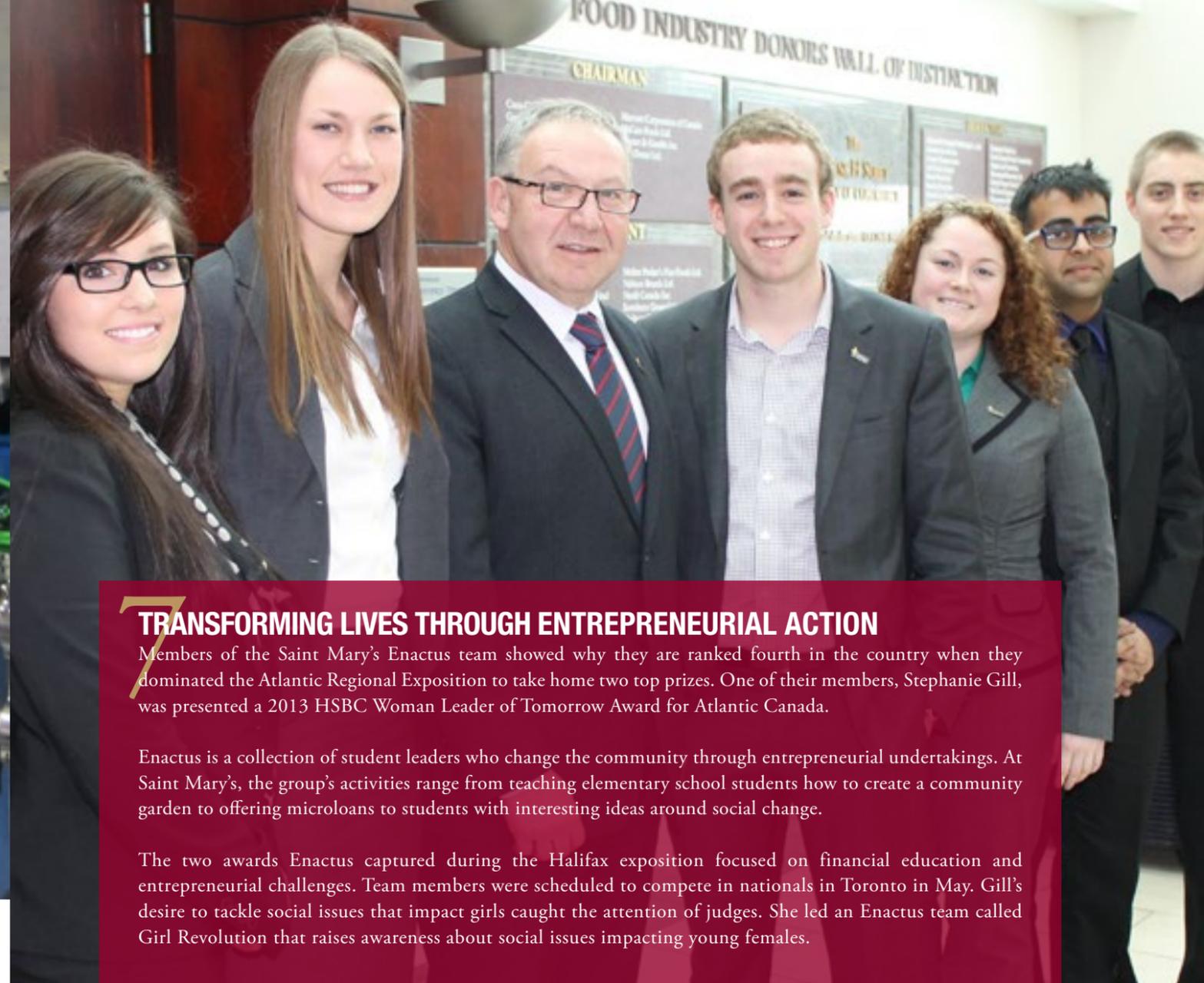


TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTION

Members of the Saint Mary's Enactus team showed why they are ranked fourth in the country when they dominated the Atlantic Regional Exposition to take home two top prizes. One of their members, Stephanie Gill, was presented a 2013 HSBC Woman Leader of Tomorrow Award for Atlantic Canada.

Enactus is a collection of student leaders who change the community through entrepreneurial undertakings. At Saint Mary's, the group's activities range from teaching elementary school students how to create a community garden to offering microloans to students with interesting ideas around social change.

The two awards Enactus captured during the Halifax exposition focused on financial education and entrepreneurial challenges. Team members were scheduled to compete in nationals in Toronto in May. Gill's desire to tackle social issues that impact girls caught the attention of judges. She led an Enactus team called Girl Revolution that raises awareness about social issues impacting young females.



UNREELING IN THE YEARS

Video killed the radio star, and digital has certainly dealt some of its own death blows, but two fast-forward thinking Saint Mary's professors aren't letting VHS go down without a fight.

Working in partnership with the Atlantic Filmmakers Cooperative, Drs. Michele Byers and Jennifer VanderBurgh collected more than 100 used VHS tapes to put together a program of "VHS ephemera" called *Home Bodies* for the Halifax Independent Film Festival.

The 45-minute effort uses material snipped from corporate videos, home movies and cartoons to shine a light on the optimism and pessimism of the individuals producing the tapes.

"At all times it pays tribute to an undervalued medium," explains VanderBurgh. "There are no archives for Canadian

television. When people throw VHS tapes away, we lose the informal records created by citizen archivists who began recording TV shows in the 1970s."

EXPLORING FOOD SECURITY IN VIET NAM

With the United Nations warning that rising global food prices are causing poverty, Anthropology professor Rylan Higgins recently took three undergraduate students to Viet Nam for three months to see the impact first hand.

Teaming up with counterparts at a university in Ho Chi Minh City, the students looked at the ways local food is produced, distributed and consumed. The team surveyed 300 households, compiling ethnographic data and shedding light on concerns about food safety.

On one afternoon team members watched an older homeless man foraging in the trash just outside the host university. Watching him find and eat a discarded container of popcorn underscored for the students the difficulty that much of the city has feeding itself.

NEW LOOK FOR ATHLETICS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

A three-year plan to renew the University's aging recreation facilities was announced in March.

Under the plan, older sections of the Homburg Centre for Health & Wellness will be revitalized and dramatic changes are in store for Huskies Stadium.

"We take great pride in our athletics and recreation facilities. We maintain them and do our very best to ensure they meet the needs of today's students, but there is no disputing they are beginning to show their age," said Gabe Morrison, Vice-President Finance and Administration.

The three year plan starts this summer with the renovation and renewal of locker rooms, the weight room, the steam room and the popular cardio room. Next summer the focus will be on the gym, with the replacement of the floor and bleachers. The precise details of the redevelopment of Huskies Stadium will be available once a Request for Proposals has been issued, but the University envisions the replacement of the bleachers, earth mound and canopy with a new open air stadium to accommodate 3,500 spectators.



Smashing SUCCESS

By Jordan Whitehouse

It's never an exact science figuring out which students will become leaders in their fields, but if Rania Llewellyn (BComm'94, MBA'96) is any example, there could be a positive correlation between how well undergrads plays table tennis and their career success.

"I was a pretty good ping pong player even before I came to Canada," says Llewellyn with a laugh over the phone from her office in Toronto. Once arriving at Saint Mary's from Cairo in 1992, she became an even better player, winning more than her fair share of matches against friends at the Tower's tables. Today, the mother of two is President and CEO of Roynat Capital, a Scotiabank subsidiary that provides non-traditional financing solutions to Canadian mid-market businesses.

Banking Center in Halifax. She later moved to Toronto with her husband, Sean (who is also a Saint Mary's alum and works at Scotiabank), to work with the corporate bank at Scotia Capital.

Over the next few years she held progressively senior roles and played a critical role in launching a multicultural banking business platform. In 2010 she joined Roynat Capital as Senior Vice-President and head of their distribution network where she oversaw the Canadian sales team and set strategies to achieve growth targets and business objectives. A year and a half ago she became President and CEO.

"One thing I tell all students is to be passionate about what you do because then you'll do well at it."

Now maybe it's a coincidence that an excellent recreational table tennis player became a successful banking executive, but then again, there's something to be said for the value of exploring what's outside the classroom. "My key advice to students is to try to get involved in on-campus things," says Llewellyn. "It creates opportunities for people to start thinking strategically, thinking differently. University is not just about the classes you take. It's the experience, it's the journey."

She was born in Kuwait, but in 1987 her family moved to Egypt, where she eventually finished high school and began studying business administration at the American University in Cairo. In 1992, the family moved to Halifax and Llewellyn enrolled at Saint Mary's. Four years later, she had a Bachelor of Commerce degree and an MBA in her hands.

After working briefly in a coffee shop, she got a job as a teller at a local Scotiabank and soon joined the Commercial

Llewellyn says she might not have been as successful were it not for the guidance of two key professors at Saint Mary's.

One was Dr. Julia Sagebien, who taught marketing. "Her teaching was a life-changing experience and a critical part of my training, in terms of the importance of marketing and understanding your consumer," says Llewellyn. The other was Dr. Mahmoud Moh'd, who taught her corporate finance. "He was really instrumental in me coming back and doing my MBA. He was the one that got me interested in corporate finance, analyzing companies and figuring out enterprise value and looking at cash flow."

"One thing I tell all students is to be passionate about what you do because then you'll do well at it," she says. "It's also important to meet as many people as you can, get yourself out there and get out of your comfort zone."

A few trips to the ping pong table might just help, too. □



Playing it Forward

Saint Mary's Football Legend Puts New Spin on Football

When football legend Leroy Fontaine finished playing ball for Saint Mary's University, he wanted to do something to give back. The end result was Tribal Dreams, a football camp he co-founded with former Edmonton Huskies teammate Dathan Thomas to give Aboriginal youth the skills to succeed, both on and off the playing field.

"Dathan and I were on the same path," says Fontaine. "He had just finished his career with the Saskatchewan Huskies and wanted to run a football camp. I was just ending my days with Saint Mary's Huskies and wanted to do something to support Aboriginal youth. We decided to work together to do both."

As an Aboriginal person who grew up on northern Alberta's Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation, Fontaine has a distinct advantage when it comes to understanding the struggles faced by today's Aboriginal youth.

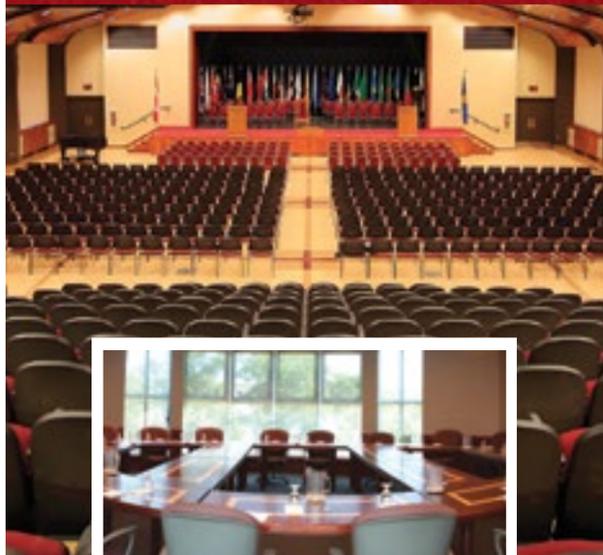
"Both Dathan and I have "not-so-perfect" upbringings," he says, "so we're able to relate to troubled young people and share our passion through the use of football and Tribal Dreams."

In the spirit of paying it forward, and in recognition of Fontaine's legacy on Husky field and his commitment to social responsibility, the 2012-13 Huskies Football players worked with team photographer Joe Chvala, and an alumni group called The Old Dogs, to produce a set of 80 collectible trading cards, the proceeds of which went to support Tribal Dreams.

The next project for the Football Huskies will be autographed, numbered, limited edition cards—designed again this year by Colin Sutton. Proceeds for these collector's items will be divided between Tribal Dreams and Nova Scotia Special Olympics. □

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*Dr. Chris Power urged students
to work hard and to give back to
the community.*

You are the Future, Embrace it

A degree is more than a piece of paper. It is a ticket to a fuller life, a key for opening doors and a passageway to a future that must include giving back to the community.

Chris Power, CEO of Capital Health, urged 200 jubilant students to continue learning, to seek out challenges and always give back. She advised them to cultivate relationships carefully and find a calling that makes work feel like fun.

Two honorary doctorates were conferred at the ceremony. One went to Power in recognition of the role she plays in inspiring young women leaders. The second went to George Han Hwa Kwan, a long time champion and advocate for Chinese culture in Atlantic Canada.

"You are our future. Embrace it. You were put on this earth to make a difference. Ensure that you do," said Mr. Kwan.

Valedictorian Jessie May emphasized the importance of friends, family and community, noting that no one achieves success alone.

Winter Convocation

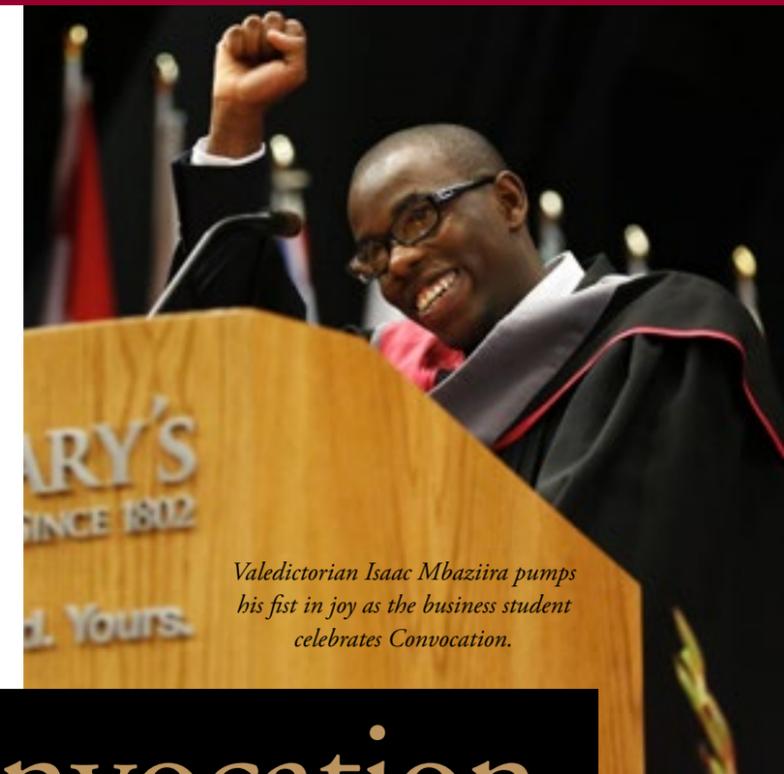
Continue Your Voyage of Discovery

Believe in yourselves. See obstacles as challenges. Take risks. Give back to the community.

Halifax businessman Fred Smithers challenged graduates to embrace those simple messages as they build a brighter tomorrow for themselves, the province and the country.

One of four community leaders to be presented honorary doctorates, he joined Professor Ed McBride, politician and pundit Gloria McCluskey, and property developer Besim Halef in wishing students good fortune as they continue their voyage of discovery.

"You will be called on to provide leadership," said University President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Colin Dodds. "Your diploma confirms that you have the talent and confidence to perform that duty. Keep learning so you can provide the leadership that will make a difference in the world ahead."



*Valedictorian Isaac Mbaziira pumps
his fist in joy as the business student
celebrates Convocation.*

Fall Convocation

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With Grace

David Grace inducted into Turning Points Hall of Leadership, GE CEO Elyse Allan delivers keynote on Climbing the Ladder



David Grace, the co-founder of Nautel, says a surprise video tribute honouring him at the recent Turning Points in Leadership dinner touched him deeply.

The video was shown as Grace was inducted into the Turning Points Hall of Leadership in recognition of his association with Saint Mary's and his role in growing a small Hackett's Cove navigational beacon manufacturer into an international firm that leads in the development of AM and FM radio transmitters.

Grace's association with Saint Mary's began early in his career when his wife Dinah wanted to give up her job and return to school on a full-time basis.

"She told me she chose Saint Mary's because everyone was happier. Everyone smiled and everyone she met was polite," recalled Grace.

From that humble beginning the relationship with the school blossomed. He graduated from Saint Mary's (Canadian Institute of Management – 1975) and sat on the Board of Governors for a dozen years, serving as Vice-Chair from 2002- 2006 . He was an honorary degree recipient in 2007 and still sits as a member of the Advisory Board for the Sobey School of Business and as a Director of the IMPACT program he helped establish in 2005.



Elyse Allan, the President of GE Canada, offered the keynote address for the evening, touching on the topics of leadership, the value of networking, and the importance of working hard to achieve clearly established goals.

A passionate champion for Canada's competitiveness, Allan spoke about the need to advance the country's science and technology base, and called for more competitive fiscal policy. □

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CLAUDIA COVALCIUC

“I am so grateful for the support.”

CLAUDIA COVALCIUC Class of 2013
Bachelor of Arts with double major in Criminology and Sociology

You could say that Claudia's success at Saint Mary's is due, in part, to the generosity of donors. Driven by dedication and hard work throughout her life, she had unusually challenging hurdles to overcome. Claudia Covalciuc began life in an Austrian refugee camp. A fourth-year honours student at Saint Mary's, she didn't arrive in Nova Scotia until she was a teenager, unsure of her future. Today, she is on the Dean's List, and has been named one of Canada's Top 20 under 20. She credits the awards she received at Saint Mary's – including the Coy Family Bursary, Harrison McCain Scholarship, and Perrier Family Scholarship – for making her future so bright.

“Without the scholarships I have received, I wouldn't be here,” Claudia says. “It's such a comfort to know that, if I work hard, I'll receive this support throughout my degree”.

Student financial aid allows Claudia to invest her time and passion in meaningful projects outside academia. She works with at-risk youth; volunteers in the Mi'kmaw community; tutors with Pathways to Education; and drums in the All Nation Drum group. Through these activities, Claudia has forged deep connections with her adopted home.

Many of the scholarships and bursaries at Saint Mary's are available because of donations. In the case of Claudia, even modest donations add up to an incredibly inspirational, life-changing impact. “My life is definitely more meaningful and I'm moving along a path to improve the quality of life for others,” she says. It's no wonder that Claudia calls her scholarships, “a lifeline.” Thanks to the generosity of so many donors, this lifeline can also be extended to other students.

But hers is only one side of the story.

“We're proud to give back.”

LEO MCKENNA BComm'82
SEAN MCKENNA BComm'93

Brothers Sean and Leo McKenna live in different cities, are involved in different activities, and have pursued different career paths, but both share the same belief in the value of giving to Saint Mary's University. These successful chartered accountants and Saint Mary's alumni were able to pursue their studies because of the scholarships that donations made possible.



LEO MCKENNA

“I was the oldest of eight and my parents were not in a position to make much of a contribution to my tuition,” Leo begins.

“Scholarship funding helped me to come out of school with very little debt.” Sean echoes the sentiment: “Financial aid allowed me to focus on my studies and enjoy a full university experience.” Each sees gifts to Saint Mary's as a way to offer a new generation of students the benefits they had, but each also has more personal reasons to contribute.

Sean, Executive Director of Finance for Cineplex Entertainment, views giving – which he does through monthly donations – in a larger social context. “I give to Saint Mary's for the same reason I give to other organizations doing good work. Saint Mary's is doing good work, and investing in the future,” the Toronto resident says.

Leo, Chief Financial Officer at Nova Scotia Workers' Compensation Board, appreciates that his gifts can benefit his home province. “Saint Mary's is important in attracting people to Halifax and is key to our success and growth as a city and province,” he says.

Granted, it helps that both brothers “grew up in a family that believes in giving back,” as Sean puts it. “I hope my small contribution is helping someone else today,” Leo adds, an appropriate reminder that this isn't necessarily about big gifts. Instead, it's the cumulative impact of donations from alumni and other Saint Mary's supporters – just like Sean and Leo.

Theirs is the other side of the story. Add a page of your own to the ongoing story of the power of generosity – please give to Saint Mary's.



SEAN MCKENNA

givetoSMU.ca

HOMECOMING

October 2-6, 2013

*Celebrating
15, 20 and 40 years of
proud Santamarrians*



1963



1973



2008



1993



1998



1988



2003



Blair Ryan

Homecoming is about your experience! Your family, your friends, and your opportunity to come back to campus and relive the amazing connections, experiences, and time spent at Saint Mary's. This year's homecoming will feature all of our traditional events.

The annual Golden Grad Luncheon will be hosted by President Colin Dodds. The 25th Anniversary Silver Grad lunch will kick off the big game against Acadia on Saturday!

2013 also marks a big year for grad classes. The Class of 2003 and 2008 will be celebrating their 5 and 10 year anniversary. The Class of 1993 and 1998 will be celebrating their 15 and 20 year anniversary. And the class of 1973 will be celebrating 40 years of being proud Santamarrians.

We'll also be paying tribute to the AUS Champions of 1973. This year's family event will be a special SMU only showing of *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2*.



The One World Alumni Dinner will be in support of the Empathy Factory, an organization that teaches children the importance of empathy to create social change. The charity was created by future MBA alumnus, Blair Ryan, and Stefanie Shute, Certificate in Leading Complex Change '11. Tickets on sale soon.

For a full list of events visit smu.ca/alumni □



Our Current Partners



For information on becoming a partner, please email sarah.b.macdonald@smu.ca or call 902.496.9276

For information on getting an Alumni Card, please visit www.smu.ca/alumni/card or call 902.420.5420



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Saint Mary's University Alumni



ALUMNI HELPING ALUMNI

The launch of the Alumni Card Loyalty Program at Saint Mary's University is benefitting both local businesses and alumni card holders.

"It's a great thing to save some change these days" says recent alumnus, Greg Field (BComm'12), as he flashes his Alumni Card to the cashier at Choco Café on Lower Water Street in Halifax. Field, co-founder of the newly struck Saint Mary's University Young Alumni Chapter, says that he's already taken advantage of some of what the Loyalty Program has to offer.

All he has to do is show his Alumni Card to receive discounts across the city.

"I love these guys," he says, referring to Omar Khartabil (MBA'08) and Rami Issa, former Saint Mary's students who own Choco Café.

The store is a specialty chocolate shop and café all rolled into one. It features decadent hot chocolates, coffees, and snacks. It also has a wide selection of handmade chocolates and sweets.

"Our hot chocolate is a best-seller. People really enjoy it," says Khartabil.

People also seem to be enjoying the Loyalty Program's discount. Choco Café, along with many other companies, have been partnering with the Alumni Office to provide special offers to alumni from Saint Mary's. The savings options range from a percentage off purchases to special rates on dental work and hotel rooms.

"People should know about this service and take advantage of it. All you have to do is show your card," explained Field.

For more information about getting a card or discounts, visit the Alumni Office website at www.smu.ca/alumni.

If you are a business or organization looking to partner with the Alumni Office with the Loyalty Program, you can contact Sarah MacDonald at sarah.b.macdonald@smu.ca for a Partnership Package. □



London Chapter Canada House Reception



History Society Discussion with a Grad



1973

Alumni Events



Toronto Chapter Raptors Game



Tempo Reception and East Coast Music Awards



Hong Kong Alumni and Faculty Reception



Ottawa Christmas Social



MBA and EMBA Alumni Gathering



Sustainability in Practice with Saint Mary's Alumni

A YEAR OF CHAMPIONS

The phrase “go big or go home” hadn’t been coined in 1973, but that didn’t stop Saint Mary’s men’s basketball and football teams from going big and coming home as national champions.

“When we won the championship, we won it for our teams, our school and the entire city,” says Peter Halpin (BA’73), a former men’s basketball player. “There was a real sense of community that was felt by everyone near and far.”

In the past four decades, Saint Mary’s has tripled in size, but we’ve maintained that same sense of community and continued to build on a tradition of athletic excellence marked by other big wins in 1973, including AUS Championships for men’s basketball, football and hockey.

Friends, family, and past supporters are invited to a reception on Friday, October 4 in the Courtside Lounge for the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the 1973 men’s basketball, football, and hockey teams. Former players and supporters will receive a special invitation. To request an invitation, please contact the alumni office by email (alumni@smu.ca) or call 902-420-5420. For more information, please visit www.smu.ca/alumni.



BILGUUN & CHRIS'

Another Day Another Tögrög for Saint Mary's Grads in Mongolia

As members of student government at Saint Mary's University, Chris MacDougall (BComm'09) and Bilguun Ankhbayar (BComm'08) didn't always agree.

"We definitely had our differences," says Ankhbayar, smiling as he recalls a few near-fistfights. So how did SMUSA's VP Finance and VP Internal Affairs end up starting their own investment bank in the coldest capital city in the world?

"That," says MacDougall, "is where the story takes an unexpected turn."

After graduating from Saint Mary's in 2009, MacDougall completed graduate studies at the University of Saint Andrews in Scotland and moved to London for a position in financial market sales with a focus on emerging and frontier markets.

Ankhbayar, meanwhile, was making some moves of his own, first to Toronto, where he worked for two years at a boutique investment bank and then, in 2009 back to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, where he was born and raised. "Mongolia had just finalized an investment agreement for the second largest copper project in the world," he says. "There was a massive boom in the mining industry and money was about to come pouring in."

With Ankhbayar sandwiched between Russia and China, and MacDougall ensconced in the UK, the chance of meeting again was slim until fellow Saint Mary's grad and SMUSA executive member, Matt Risser, took the lead in organizing a reunion trip to Mongolia.

"I arrived in Ulaanbaatar with a sense of excitement at seeing a good friend again," says MacDougall. "I left with a job offer."

After that there was no turning back. Two weeks after returning to London, MacDougall accepted a position as an investment advisor with a major Mongolian conglomerate. Six months later the conglomerate asked him to develop a business plan to regenerate an inoperative investment bank owned by one of their subsidiary companies.

EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

Seizing a unique opportunity to merge the fledgling investment bank with a small brokerage run by Ankhbayar, the two SMUSA veterans worked together to build MIBG (Mongolian Investment Banking Group), the country's first boutique investment bank focused strictly on the minerals and resources sectors.

In some ways life is much like it would be in any large city, with long work days and several evenings a week spent networking with clients in one of the local restaurants. "Most places serve generic western food," says MacDougall, "although finding a quality cheeseburger is an ongoing battle."

Other challenges are more pressing in Ulaanbaatar, a city of 1.3 million that's characterized by Ankhbayar as the collision of a nomadic herder mentality with modern business culture.

"Utilities and infrastructure have suffered because of the population explosion," says MacDougall. "Blackouts are common, roads are scattered with potholes, traffic is impossible, and air pollution is the worst in the world during the winter months."

As often as possible, he and Ankhbayar escape to the open Steppe of the vast countryside. In the winter they play competitive basketball and in the summer they race in the Mongolian Amateur Cycling Circuit.

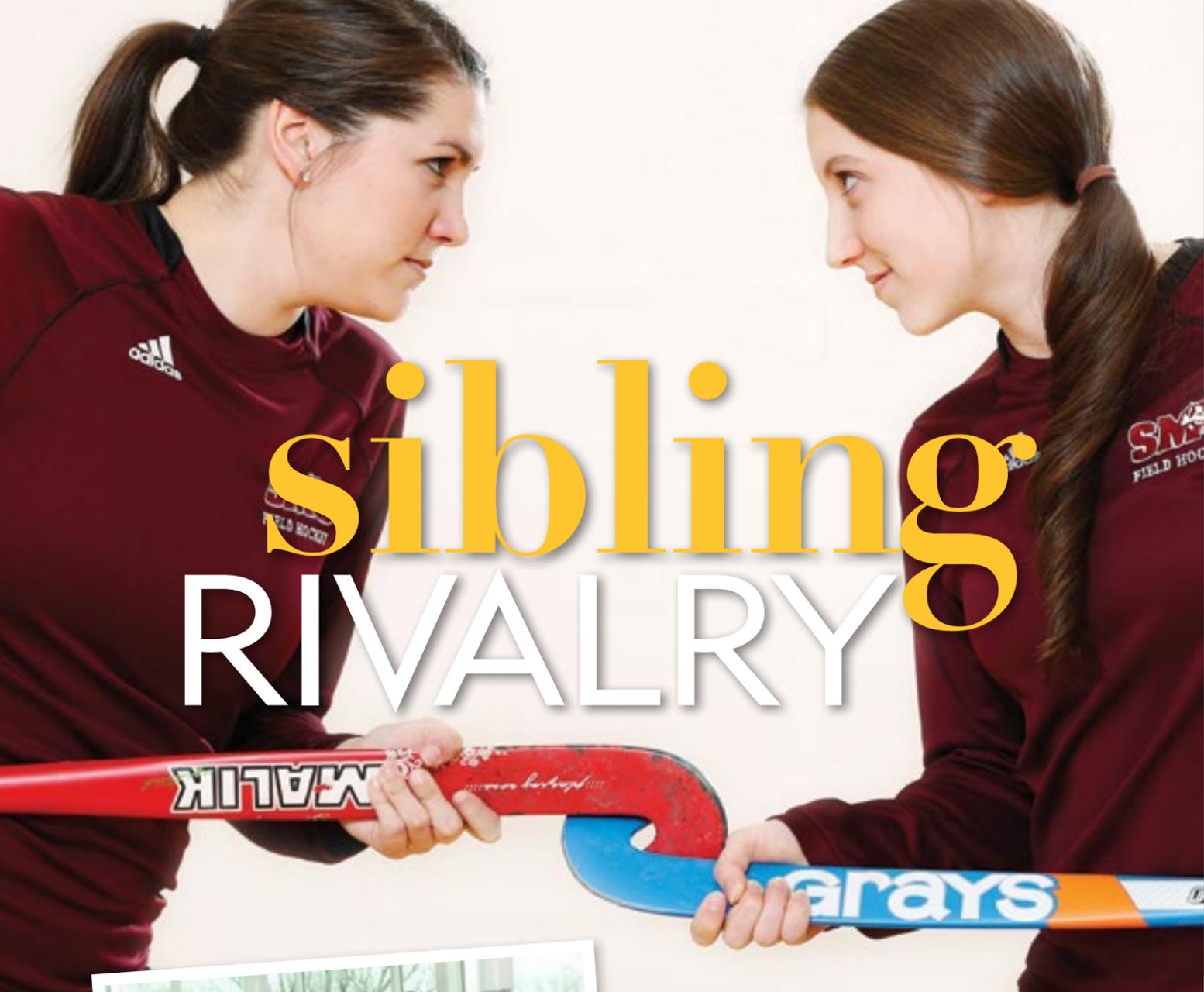
MacDougall misses Nova Scotia, but Skype makes it easy to feel connected. And despite not being fluent in the language, he is making connections there. "Bilguun and his family and friends have been a real support to me here," he says.

Ankhbayar misses Nova Scotia as well, and recommends Saint Mary's to Mongolians who want to study abroad. "The Sobey School of Business played a large role in my professional career," he says. "I am so thankful to the Department of Finance and Management for great programs and opportunities like the IMPACT Fund."

On April 1st, Bilguun Ankhbayar and Chris MacDougall celebrated MIBG's one-year anniversary. Ankhbayar is the bank's Chief Executive Officer and MacDougall is the Managing Director, Investment Banking. They still don't always agree, but it doesn't seem to matter: in the space of 12 months, they've expanded their staff to include an exploration geologist, a legal advisor, and analysts focused on Mongolian and Chinese macroeconomics, and foreign and domestic equities.

Agreement may be over-rated. □





sibling RIVALRY



Athletic ability often runs in families, so it's not surprising when siblings excel in the same sports. What is surprising is when three pairs of siblings at Saint Mary's University distinguish themselves as Academic All Canadians, a national honour reserved for a small number of student-athletes who compete in a varsity sport and get top grades.

"It's rare to have brothers on the team," says Soccer coach Stewart Galloway. "And I certainly don't recall ever having three sets of siblings make Academic All Canadians. It's as unusual as it is impressive."

Meet Mandy and Brittany Avery; Shane and Drew Rajaraman; and Roman and Kiefer Burgess: six of Saint Mary's 57 Academic All-Canadians for 2013.

ROMAN AND KIEFER BURGESS

Twins Roman and Kiefer Burgess do most things together. The second year Commerce students study together, train together, take operatic singing lessons together and play together on Saint Mary's varsity soccer team.

"So it wasn't exactly a big surprise that we both made the cut as Academic All Canadians," says Kiefer, "but it was still pretty sweet to be recognized nationally for academics and athletics."

"Our parents are very proud," adds Roman. "In everything we do, they inspire a sense of healthy competition."

Like any brothers, Kiefer and Roman sometimes compete against each other—

"I'm bigger," says Roman.

"That's true," says Kiefer with a grin, "but I'm faster."

The competition is sharpest when it comes to their grades.

"Roman and I both excel in school," says Kiefer, "but he usually scores a point or two higher. When I get even one per cent higher than Roman I relish it." Both say the "twin thing" is a distinct advantage on the soccer field, where Roman plays wingback defense and Kiefer plays wing.

"When Kiefer is on the pitch, I can usually predict what he's going to do," says Roman.

"After the game it's great to be able to bounce around ideas together," says Kiefer. "Our dad dissects our games with us and Mom usually asks why we can't we talk about something else for a change. She helps us keep it all in perspective."

MANDY AND BRITTANY AVERY

Sibling rivalry isn't a foreign concept to sisters Mandy and Brittany Avery, varsity field hockey athletes who play on the same team at Saint Mary's University.

"In the past we've had our differences," laughs Mandy, at 23 the elder by three years, "but it helps to belong to the same team."

A 5th year double major in Sociology and Criminology, Mandy is, to date, the most decorated Field Hockey player to have played for Saint Mary's. An Atlantic League All-star and four-time All-Canadian, she has led the Huskies squad as Captain and MVP for the past four years.

In this long list of achievements, recognition as an Academic All Canadian is something new.

"Brittany is the one who usually gets the academic awards," says Mandy. "I've worked really hard for this and she has been my role model."

Brittany is a second year Arts student majoring in Criminology and French. An Academic All Canadian for two years running, Atlantic League All-star and Rookie of the Year, she and was recently identified for the Canadian Junior National Team Program in Field Hockey. "It all stems from our mother and father," says Brittany. "They come to all our games and afterwards we sit around rehashing the play."

With two daughters named Academic All Canadians, the Avery family has even more to discuss these days.

DREW AND SHANE RAJARAMAN

There was never any question that Shane and Drew Rajaraman would play on the same varsity soccer team at Saint Mary's University. With only a year's difference in age, the brothers have been playing soccer together since Shane was six and Drew was five.

"Athletics run in our family," says Drew, a 4th year Biology major. A belief in the value of education also runs in the Rajaraman family. "We've been taught that it's important to find a balance between academics and athletics," says Shane.

Shane has made Academic All Canadian every year but one since arriving at Saint Mary's. He graduated in 2012 with a B.Sc. in Biology and is now completing a 5th year

Honours Thesis, recently taking top prize in the Biology Poster category at the 2013 Science Atlantic Conference.

"We both work hard," says Drew, whose record so far for Academic All Canadian is 100 per cent. "And we've had a lot of good guidance over the years from our coach, Stewart Galloway."

On the field, Drew plays right wing while his brother, Shane, is Centre Mid-field.

"We have some arguments off-field," admits Drew, "but they're usually more in the spirit of constructive criticism. The whole family joins in." □

2013

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 to submit a nomination visit contact www.smu.ca/alumni or call 902.420.5420.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS FRIDAY, AUGUST 16.

GAME CHANGER

Saint Mary's Alumnus Aims to Restore Stolen Glory

Chicago lawyer Taps Gallagher has seen the 1972 Olympic Basketball Team's gold medal game in Munich more than 25 times, and it always ends the same way. For the Saint Mary's alumnus and self-confessed basketball fanatic, it's time to set the record straight.

"Most people remember that the Russians won," says Gallagher, "but they don't know that the 12 American team members refused to accept their silver medals."

Forty years after the Soviet win, those medals lie unclaimed in an Olympic Museum storage facility in Switzerland and Gallagher remains as convinced as he was in the early hours of the morning on September 10, 1972 that politics robbed the American team of a victory.

"There was an outcry at the time," he says, "but it was muted by the tragic events at the games. Anything that took place in a basketball game didn't seem all that important less than a week after Palestinian terrorists killed 10 Israelis and a West German police officer on the Olympics campus."

After years of leading a campaign to have the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) overturn the results of the game, and failed attempts to engage the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Gallagher has taken matters into his own hands and written a book that makes a convincing case for awarding the American team duplicate gold medals.

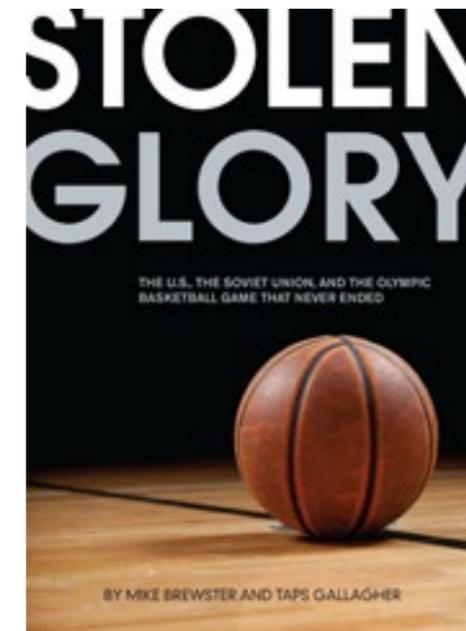
Stolen Glory takes us back to the last three seconds of one of the most fiercely contested games in Olympic history. "Fans erupted when the American team scored two points for a 50 to 49 win," says Gallagher.

Celebrations had already begun when a referee stopped play at midcourt and gave the Russians another two shots after the

three seconds ended. When that didn't result in a win, the President of FIBA, the International Basketball Federation, ordered that the Soviets be given a third chance to take the ball out of bounds.

More than the retelling of an Olympic game, Stolen Glory is a history of cold war tensions and manipulation. Interviews with players, coaches and announcers trace the aftermath of a game fraught with irregularities, and the critical stand taken by 12 young men.

The day after the game, Gallagher left his home in Long Island, NY to attend Saint Mary's University. Recruited by Saint Mary's to play basketball, he was a member of the University's first national championship basketball team (1972-73).



After graduating from Saint Mary's, Gallagher completed a Master's Degree in Public Administration at St. Johns University in New York City and a J.D. (Law degree) at Loyola University in Chicago. "I always did the work," he says. "I never missed a class--neither at Saint Mary's, nor in grad school and law school.

Gallagher was present last August when the twelve members of the

1972 Olympic Basketball Team travelled to Lexington, Kentucky for their first reunion in four decades. "I gave each of the players a reproduction gold medal made in China," says Gallagher, "but I told them they'd have to give them back once we get the real ones."

Support for Gallagher's mission comes from Kim, his wife of 28 years, and their three daughters. The eldest recently told him that if he manages to get duplicate gold medals he will have accomplished something that's very rare. He'll have changed history. For more information: www.facebook.com/CourageInMunich □



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For more information visit our website or call 420-5555 www.smuhuskies.ca

Snippets

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

1961



In September 2012, *John A. Yogis, Q.C. (BA)* was among the 10 inductees into the Bertha Wilson Honour Society. The Society, established by the Schulich School of Law and the Dalhousie Law Alumni Association, recognizes "extraordinary alumni who personify the spirit of Bertha Wilson." Wilson was a pioneer of the Canadian judiciary and the first female member of the Supreme Court of Canada.

1964

Clenworth Francis (BSc) retired in April 2011 and has recently launched a new career as a Cruise & Travel Consultant with Luxury Travel by Ruiz in Miami, FL. "I usually cruise 3-4 times per year and decided to 'preach what I practice'. I am still married to the same beautiful young lady that I wed on Sept. 28, 1963 at the Basilica. Fr. Hennessey, Fr. Hoffman, Fred Dockrill and Roland Marshall attended the ceremony."

1969

David Saxton (BComm), Joyce Carter (BComm'84) and Lauren McQuaid (BComm'11) recently achieved the prestigious designation of Fellow Chartered Accountant (FCA). Thank you for being a terrific example for future Sobeys School of Business graduates.

Len Gougeon (BA) was recently named a Distinguished Professor of American Literature at the University of Scranton, a Jesuit institution in Pennsylvania, where he has taught in the English Department for almost 40 years. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and specializes in nineteenth-century American literature. A past-President of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, he is a recipient of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society's Distinguished Achievement Award. His most recent book is *Emerson's Truth, Emerson's Wisdom: Transcendental Advice for Everyday Life* (American Transcendental Books, 2010).

1973

Arnold Lukas (BED) is retiring after 39 years of teaching for the Toronto District School Board. Arnold recalls his days as Campus Police Chief from 1970-1972 with fondness and would love to hear updates from any other former Campus Police Chiefs. (lukas1946@yahoo.com.au)

1974



Joe Norris (BED), a dramatic arts professor at Brock University, and co-inventor Richard Sawyer of Washington State University, have

created a new research methodology called Duoethnography. Duoethnography involves two people, usually researchers, conversing with one another in script form on the same subject from very different viewpoints. As they gain insights and knowledge through the course of the conversation, the two people begin to change their perspectives. This research methodology laid the foundation for two new books, *Duoethnography: Dialogic methods for social, health, and educational research* and *Understanding Qualitative Research: Duoethnography*. Norris is also credited with transforming "playbuilding"—the use of theatre to deepen understanding of the social world—into a research methodology now used by colleagues and graduate students. His book on the topic received the 2011 Outstanding Book Award from The Qualitative Research Special Interest Group of The American Educational Research Association.

1975

Peter Crocilla (BA) announces a promotion to Vice-President at JP Morgan & Chase in the department of Mortgage Banking Technology.

Michael McCurdy (BED) and *Susan McCurdy (MED'92)* celebrated 40 years of marriage on May 12, 2012. The two met at Saint Mary's in 1969 and have two children. They have travelled extensively around the world and lived in Australia, China and Lebanon. Now retired, they have started up The Halifax Senior's Happiness Project (.com) to bring intellectual stimulation, social, and community involvement to Halifax's senior seniors.

1977



Robyn Quinn (BA) of Victoria, BC, a long time communications professional and owner of Big Bang Communications, has been named to the Canadian Public Relations Society College of Fellows. College members are recognized as proven leaders in public relations and communications. Including this year's inductees, there are just 84 members in the CPRS College of Fellows across Canada. Quinn's company specializes in public relations and communications for high growth technology companies.

1981

Dr. Erwin Neumark (BComm) was awarded a Ph.D. in October 2011 from Concordia University, Montreal, after having been an M.A. (Concordia, 2002) level Quebec board licensed psychologist since 2003. Erwin works primarily with autism and anxiety disorders.

1982

Kathy Maclean (BED) married Chris Watts (York U '79) on July 29th, 2011 in Dartmouth N.S. Kathy is the Department Head of Religious Education at St. Martin Secondary School. The couple reside in Mississauga, Ontario.

1985



Lena Metlege Diab (BA '85), Partner at Noseworthy Dicostranzo, received the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee medal at a ceremony held November 12, 2012 for service to the community and to the legal profession. Lena is a professional and community leader, serving in leadership roles in a variety of community groups as well as a number of committees with the NS Barristers Society. She is also President of the Canadian Lebanon Society.

1984

Robert Dawson (MAED) has retired after teaching for 33 years in Nova Scotia and five years in New Brunswick. Now living near Parlee Beach, NB, Robert is enjoying

retirement and travelling as much as possible. Robert has two daughters graduating from Saint Mary's in May 2013.

1988



Grenville Phillips II (BSc) was appointed President of Walbrent College in Barbados after a 20-year structural engineering career. Grenville is the principal author of an accredited certificate course for foremen on residential construction with a low vulnerability to natural hazards. He is also a 30-year student of Middle-east history, and the author of *Brothers Kept Apart* and *Solving the Arab-Israeli Conflict*.

1991

Congratulations to *Paul Berry (BComm)* who was promoted in November 2012 to the position of Assistant Superintendent, Detection for the Atlantic Provinces at the Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy.



Brian Hutchings (BComm) has accepted the position as Vice President Finance and Administration at Brock University. Brian is a Certified General Accountant, completed the Queen's Executive Development Program and has a certificate in human resources management. Hutchings plays an active role in his community and has served as a volunteer with many organizations.

1992

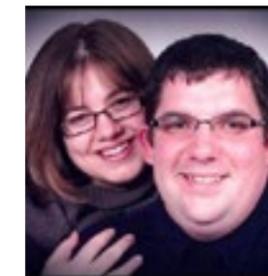


Andrew Stuart (BA) joins other distinguished fraternity brothers in receiving the Significant Sig award from the Sigma Chi—one of the largest Greek-letter social fraternities in North America. Stuart is the President & CEO of Volkswagen Credit, Inc. Over the past 20 years he has held various positions of increased responsibility in the automotive field. He started his career at Volkswagen Group Canada in December 1991, as a District Manager in the Atlantic Provinces. Mr. Stuart serves on the Board of

Directors of the American Financial Services Association and Junior Achievement.

Matt Whitman (BCA) was elected as HRM Councillor of District 13, Hammonds Plains and St. Margaret's. Whitman represents communities ranging from Kingswood to Hubbards to Peggy's Cove. Matt lives in Hammonds Plains with his wife and two children. To connect with Matt, find him on his website at www.mattwhitman.ca.

1993



Alicia Crowe (BComm) married Chad Sainsbury on October 6, 2012 and celebrated the beautiful Thanksgiving weekend with friends and family in Springhill, NS. They live just outside St. John's, NL where Alicia graduated from Memorial University with her Masters of Employee Relations in 2007 and is currently the Director of Human Resources with the Eastern School District.

Eric Miller (BA) was recently appointed Vice-President, Policy, Innovation and Competitiveness with the Canadian Council of Chief Executives. Prior to his appointment he served as Industry Canada's representative at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC.

1994

Mary Kirby (BA) was celebrated at a ceremony on November 30, 2012 as a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal. The medal celebrates Mary's work as director of Investigations with the CF Ombudsman and her leadership of a complex investigation into CF Occupational Stress Injuries, as well as volunteer efforts with Canadians who suffer from mental illness as the Past-President and Vice-Chair of the Canadian Mental Health Association Ottawa.

1998

Scott H. Melvin (DipEng) received his Doctor of Philosophy degree from Dalhousie University's Faculty of Engineering on October 2, 2012. His PhD was in Electrical Engineering with a concentration in communication

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systems and data networks. Scott completed his degree under the supervision of Dr. Jacek Ilow with the support of NSERC through a post-graduate scholarship and research funding from the Communication Networks and Services Research project.

Cindy Joe (BComm) returned to Nova Scotia after spending 5.5 years in the Cayman Islands (survived a few hurricanes) and the past 6 years in the United Arab Emirates. Cindy was the Chief Operating Officer for the Middle East Region for one of the largest UK-based International law firms. Offices in the Middle East included UAE, Bahrain and Saudi.

1999



Dr. S. Karly Kehoe (BA) has been accepted into the Royal Society of Edinburgh Young Academy. Karly completed her PhD in History at the University of Glasgow in 2005 and held a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Guelph from 2006 to 2008 before being appointed lecturer with the Centre for History at the University of the Highlands and Islands. In December of 2011 she joined the History and Politics team at GCU. She is the managing editor of *Britain and the World* and was a Visiting Fellow of Yale's Beinecke Library in 2011-12. Her work concentrates on

national identity, religion and gender in the *British World*.

2001

Amy (Davidson) Houle, CA (BComm) is now an audit manager with Rector Colavecchia Roche Chartered Accountants in Dartmouth, NS. The firm's partners, Lawrence Roche, CA (BComm '86, MBA '97) and Steven Gray, CA (BComm '00), are pleased to have another Saint Mary's grad join their team.

2003

Neala (Glasgow) Braedley (BA) and her husband Kenneth Braedley (Dalhousie Alumni with a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering and a Diploma of Meteorology) announce the birth of their third child, Nicolas Taylor, born on June 19th and weighing 7lbs.10oz. Their family of five is currently living in New Brunswick.

Nik Keong Sam (Eyenn) (CIS) writes: "Choosing SMU to further my tertiary education in 2000 was a wise choice to make! In SMU, I learned how to become a leader with an attitude of leadership and entrepreneurship. After I graduated in 2003, I returned to my home country—Malaysia—and successfully entered a multinational oil and gas company—Shell—as HR SAP support analyst. In Shell, I quickly adapted to

the culture and their way of working as I've studied many multinational case studies when I was in SMU. Now, I moved on to the second assignment in Shell as application support for the manufacturing systems at the oil refinery. I am proudly telling all my colleagues and leaders in Shell that I graduated from Saint Mary's University! Thanks SMU for nurturing me to become what I am today!"

2004



Marcel Dupupet (BComm), his wife Amanda and daughter Vivienne of Oakville, Ontario welcomed a new addition to their family. Alexandre

Marcel Bradley Dupupet was born November 7th, 2012 at 12:32pm weighing 7lbs. 11oz.

Tim Harris (BComm) announces a new degree: Master of Arts, 2012, Atlantic Canada Studies Conferred 14 October 2012.

2005

John Griffin (MBA), Kally Marie Power (BComm '99), and sister Emily announce the birth of Patrick Mark Griffin on March 2, 2012.

In Memoriam

Robert Bellefontaine
BA'06
February 4, 2013

Ken Fellows
BComm'55
December 31, 2012

Louis Langlois
BComm'61
November 4, 2012

Heather McKean Malone
BA'83
November 27, 2012

John Smith
BComm'75
October 29, 2012

John Bowen
BA'78
October 24, 2012

Roger Field
BEd'74
October 28, 2012

Daurene Lewis
MBA'97
January 26, 2013

Thomas Murrant
BA'71
February 10, 2013

Blair Gerrard Sullivan
High School '47
March 20, 2013

Mark Christie
BA'97
December 22, 2013

Ronald Harris
BComm'00
February 22, 2013

David MacEachern
BEd'85
December 23, 2012

Michael Parnell
BComm'73
October 17, 2012

With Sympathy

John Stanton
January 17, 2013

Beryl Keleher
March 5, 2013

Patrick Connolly
DCL'06
November 27, 2012

Bruce Hubley
High School '48
November 30, 2012

Trent Matthews
BA'99
October 30, 2012

Lynda Patrylo
BA'78
October 7, 2012

Jason Doherty
BA'00
January 23, 2013

Greg King
MBA'05
November 30, 2012

Mona Maund
BA'68
February 25, 2013

John Roscoe
BComm'73
December 26, 2012

Rita MacNeil
Hon. D.Lit'89
April 16, 2013



The world lost a remarkable young man on June 21, 2012, when a motorcycle accident claimed the life of Saint Mary's University alumnus Mark Haenlein (BComm'00).

"Mark was born on the 7th day of the 7th month in 1977", says Chad Randell, one of the close friends Mark made at Saint Mary's. "From the very beginning, it was clear that he would be someone special."

The only child of Saint Mary's alumni, Otto (BComm'71) and Milli (BA'75 & BEd'81) Haenlein, Mark was born in Halifax and raised in Ontario and Illinois. He arrived at Saint Mary's in 1996, continuing a family tradition that began with his grandfather Otto Sr., who taught German at Saint Mary's in the 1960s.

"I'll admit that I pushed the idea of Saint Mary's," says Mark's father Otto, "but it was ultimately Mark's decision, and there were never any regrets. Mark loved his time at Saint Mary's and he loved the friends he made there."

"We had a group of about 15 girls and guys who connected for life," recalls Chad Randell. "Mark and I were in Business, but the others came from a variety of faculties and subject areas. We'd go to football games together and hang out at the Gorsebrook or the Velvet Olive. In our free time we'd go to Peggy's Cove, and Mark would be the one insisting we stand on the rocks and feel the spray from the waves."

After earning his Commerce degree, Mark took a post-graduate course in computer technology, working first in the computer field and then with his father's food brokerage firm in Orland Park, Illinois. He left the food industry for the financial field, joining Standard Bank in Chicago, quickly working his way to a position as VP.

"He was good at everything he did," says Mark's good friend, NSCAD grad Mary Pat MacDonald, "whether it was cars, music, food or technology. And when it came to his family and friends, Mark was 100 per cent devoted."

In August 2005, a contingent of Saint Mary's alumni travelled to Chicago for what everyone agrees was the happiest day of Mark's life: his wedding to Vanda Memark.

"They were so close," says Otto. "This has been very tough for Vanda, but she's hanging in."

During their married life, Mark and Vanda travelled extensively, with trips to Thailand, Hawaii and Mexico, but some of their favorite memories were of visits with Saint Mary's friends in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Ontario. Last June, those friends all made the trip to Chicago for Mark's memorial service.

As sad as it was, there was an element of celebration after the ceremony when Mark's friends gathered at his favourite restaurant to share memories.

"We told some stories that Mark's parents had never heard before," says Chad, "but they probably weren't too surprised."

Other stories spring to life in a 32-page remembrance book compiled by Mark's friends. Interspersed with tributes to his kindness, generosity and zest for life are poignant photos of Mark dressed in his Audi racing gear; Mark cuddled on the sofa with his rescue dog Maestro; Mark as a toddler in the arms of his mother; and Mark as a young man in the company of Vanda and so many others who truly loved him.

"Mark had a huge impact on my life," says Mary Pat. "I never took him for granted, but I took for granted that he would always be there."

"Mark is a major part of the memories that define our lives," adds Chad. "We are blessed to have known him for the time that we did, and he will always be present whenever we get together."

Mark's parents are grateful to his friends and Saint Mary's for enriching his very full, but brief life. □

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