

# MAROON & WHITE

For Alumni and Friends of Saint Mary's University

Fall 2014



## THE JEAN MACHINE

*Levi's president James Curleigh  
was born in the SMU(SA).*

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LETTER FROM THE ALUMNI PRESIDENT



I am honoured to be taking on the role of President of Saint Mary's Alumni Association. It gives me great pleasure to represent roughly 42,000 alumni from more than 100 countries all over the world.

I have a long, proud history with Saint Mary's that began in 1968—the year Saint Mary's went co-ed. I also come from a Saint Mary's family. My father worked at Saint Mary's. He was an Engineering grad,

as was my brother, Gerry; his son, Stephen, graduated with a BComm. My younger sister, Tish, also has a BComm and a BEd.

After graduating with a BA and a BEd, I commenced a 33-year teaching career in Halifax, beginning in Central Spryfield School and retiring from Park West School. Midway through, I took a sabbatical to return to Saint Mary's for my MEd.

Over the years, I have applauded our growing reputation as a university that educates citizens of the world. When I was a student in the late 1960s, we were already known as a school that valued diversity, and I made many good friends from other countries. I'm happy to say that Saint Mary's is still providing me with opportunities to make such friendships. Recently, I spent a day in Peggys Cove with an undergraduate student from Russia and her family.

By the time you read this letter, Homecoming will have come and gone, but at this point I am very much looking forward to the One World Alumni Dinner in support of Junior Achievement; and the 40th Anniversary of Women in Varsity

Sport. I am also looking forward to working with our Alumni Council to provide opportunities for Saint Mary's Alumni to engage, both with the University, and with each other.

I encourage you to get involved this year, whether by attending alumni events or keeping in touch through social media. We all have special memories of Saint Mary's, and there's no better way to keep those memories alive than by participating as an active member of the Saint Mary's University Alumni Association.

Please enjoy this issue of Maroon & White, and keep up with current events by reading our monthly newsletter. If you are not yet on the distribution list, our Alumni Office can add your name. There are many advantages to maintaining our common bond.

Yours truly,

*Mary-Evelyn Ternan*

Mary-Evelyn Ternan  
BA'69, BEd'70, MEd'88  
President, Saint Mary's University Alumni Association

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING HERE

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



GROWING A GLOBAL MINDSET

Plans for a ground-breaking, dual degree program came to life on July 7 with the arrival of a visiting delegation from China's Beijing Normal University, Zhuhai (BNUZ). A long-standing relationship between Saint Mary's and BNUZ, and more than a decade of collaboration, have paved the way for the Sobey School of Business and BNUZ to jointly offer a Bachelor of Commerce degree program in Zhuhai. Saint Mary's has had a general agreement with BNUZ since 2003, and in 2010 signed an agreement that has allowed a large number of BNUZ students to transfer into the Sobey School of Business.

A NEW WAY TO SAY WELCOME

For new and returning students, the university's redesigned Welcome Week offered a variety of fun-filled activities that reflect Saint Mary's values and culture. Galvanized by the events of last fall, Saint Mary's has made a commitment to prevent sexual violence and promote a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning and working environment. To this end, the university is developing on-line safety modules, providing bystander training, and hosting information sessions throughout the academic year. "There is clear evidence that this issue is being given the serious attention that it deserves and that Saint Mary's is taking a leadership role," says Wayne Mackay, a Dalhousie Law professor who chaired a council established by Saint Mary's President, Dr. J. Colin Dodds, to provide recommendations to foster cultural change.

PROTECTING OUR COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Saint Mary's University researcher Dr. Tony Charles received \$83,000 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for OceanCanada Partnership, a six-year research collaboration that includes 15 Canadian universities, non-governmental organizations, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The new funding will help Dr. Charles and his colleagues examine social, economic and environmental issues concerning Canada's oceans, coasts, and coastal communities, with a focus on improving their future health and economic potential.

Connect to the Working World



Saint Mary's University works closely with industry and government to bring hands-on educational and employment experience to our students. Through the Co-op Program, students get vital experience and a chance to explore their chosen field. Employers get eager workers with fresh skills and new ideas. Through the Student Employment Centre, students get access to part-time, on-campus and full-time job postings. The Employment Centre also coordinates employer information sessions, career fairs and on-campus interviews. If you are looking for work experience, or an employer looking for quality performance, our year-round Co-operative Education Office and Student Employment Centre can help.

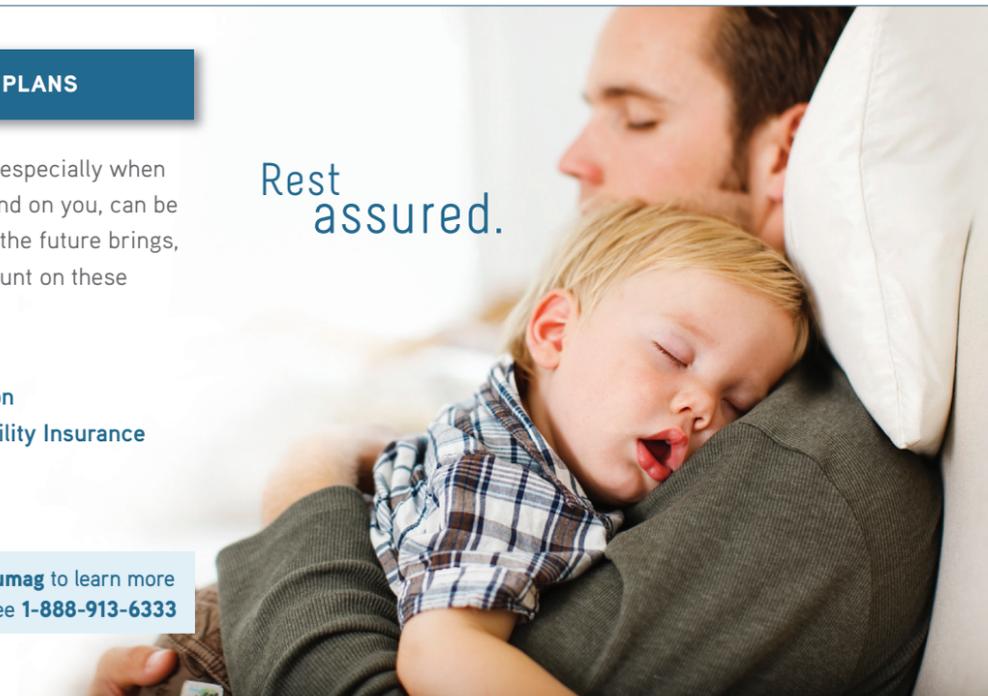
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## IMMIGRATION STARTS HERE

In an August press release, Premier Stephen McNeil announced that Saint Mary's President **Dr. J. Colin Dodds** will be joint chair of the Premier's Immigration Advisory Council. Dr. Dodds will serve as international chair, with Saint Mary's honorary degree recipient **Wadiah Fares DComm'09** as national chair. "We need to be strategic in our attraction efforts because Nova Scotia has a lot to offer to the international community," said Dr. Dodds. "Wadiah and I will have the opportunity to expand on what is working well, tackle the challenges we are facing, and explore solutions and tangible actions we can take."

## BLAZING TRAILS

Matching funding from the Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Trust (NSRIT) added to financial support already received from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) for almost half a million dollars for research being conducted by two Saint Mary's professors, **Dr. Aldona Wiacek** and **Dr. Jacob Hanley**. For Environmental Science professor Wiacek, this makes it possible to purchase a ground-based, remote sensing instrument called an open-path Fourier transform infrared spectrometer. A central piece to Dr. Wiacek's growing Tropospheric Remote Sensing Laboratory at Saint Mary's, the spectrometer will provide real-time data that allows Dr. Wiacek, her students and researchers to track harmful chemicals emitted into the atmosphere.

Geology professor Hanley will use his funding from NSRIT and CFI to purchase a \$239,000 laser Raman microscope. As Nova Scotia renews exploration in historic mining districts, companies will be drilling for gold that was formed more than 300 million years ago. The Raman microscope has the potential to make it easier to predict where that gold will be found.

## STUDENT SUCCESS

The Arts faculty was delighted to see a third-place win in the Eastern Regional 3MT (Three-Minute Thesis) Competition by **Kyle Massia**, a Master's student in Saint Mary's History department. Massia's engaging three-minute thesis on Ampelmann, a popular pedestrian traffic light figure in the former East Germany, impressed a judging panel composed of Nobel laureate Dr. John Polanyi, CBC journalist Kady O'Malley, and University of Waterloo Dean of Arts Doug Peers.

Saint Mary's Department of Chemistry also has good reason to celebrate. In June, chemistry students took home seven awards at this year's Science Atlantic/CIC Chemistry Conference held at Acadia University. The Science Atlantic Conference, better known as ChemCon, recognizes the research excellence of students across the Maritimes.

**Stephen Jones EMBA'14** is one of the Atlantic finalists in the Emerging Entrepreneur category for Ernst Young's 2014 Entrepreneur of the Year. Dr. Jones' company, 4Deep Inwater Imaging, specializes in underwater microscopes that can image, count, size, and characterize microorganisms in any body of water in real-time. Atlantic winners were announced on October 3, 2014. Jones' company was also selected from more than 1,000 entries as one of the four finalists for the \$100,000 Telus Award. Stay tuned!



Kareem O'Keiffe

Heather MacDonald

Stephanie Pronk

## TOP PICKS FOR FUTURE LEADERS

Six of the high-performing, emerging leaders chosen by 21inc for the prestigious 21Leaders program have close connections to Saint Mary's. Prevailing against 628 candidates in the Maritime provinces to take 6 of the 54 coveted spots in a 10-month mentorship program are:

**Steven Binder:** Sobey School of Business student, and Small Business Advisor, Scotiabank

**Kareem O'Keiffe BComm'09:** Financial Advisor, Scotiabank

**Heather MacDonald:** Sobey School of Business EMBA student, and Program Manager for Junior Achievement of Nova Scotia

**Sarah MacDonald:** Saint Mary's University Alumni Officer and International Development Studies Masters student

**Jared Perry BComm'14:** Access-Ability Project Coordinator, Saint Mary's Enactus Team

**Stephanie Pronk BComm'13:** Business Manager, Common Good Solutions Inc.

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**HOME OPENERS**

<p><b>Men's Hockey vs. STU</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday, October 17, 7pm @ Halifax Forum</li> </ul>	<p><b>Basketball vs. StFX</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saturday, November 8 @ Homburg Centre</li> <li>• Women at 6pm &amp; Men at 8pm</li> </ul>
<p><b>Women's Hockey vs. DAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday, October 22, 7pm @ Alumni Arena</li> </ul>	<p>Join us for the raising of the banners for the men's &amp; women's AUS Champion Huskies.</p>
<p><b>Women's Volleyball vs. ACA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunday, November 16, 3pm @ Homburg Centre</li> </ul>	

[www.smuhuskies.ca](http://www.smuhuskies.ca) Follow us @ SMUhuskies   

**WELCOME ADDITIONS**



Saint Mary's alumnus **Kevin Downie**, a part-time faculty member at Sobey School of Business, and a lawyer with MacInnes Downie Wade, is the university's interim Athletics and Recreation Director. As a student at Saint Mary's, Downie was a letter athlete, an MVP in varsity soccer,

and a keen competitor in hockey, lacrosse, football, track and field, and baseball. After completing an Honours BA in political science in 1981, he earned a Masters in Politics-Judicial Administration at Brock University and a law degree at Dalhousie University. Mr. Downie has an extensive background in coaching soccer and lacrosse at the minor, high school and provincial league levels. He has been involved with sports management and as a legal advisor for the 2011 Canada Games.

**Kevin Buchan** joins Saint Mary's as the new Director of the Office of Innovation and Community Engagement, the department that supports joint research initiatives, provides industry/community engagement and technology/knowledge-transfer services, and assists Saint Mary's faculty in research contract development, intellectual property protection and sponsorship. As well, OICE aids start-ups based on university intellectual property, licenses technologies to industry, and assists in the transfer of other sorts of University-based intellectual property to external partners. Mr. Buchan worked for seven years in the Industry Liaison and Innovation Office at Dalhousie University and has also served as the Network Manager of Springboard Atlantic Inc. and as Director of Business Development for a medical device start-up company.



In other hiring news, **Lynn Coveyduck** will be taking on the new role of Senior Director, Business Outreach, for the Sobey School of Business. Ms. Coveyduck recently completed a Global EMBA with the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University in North Carolina. Her program included short residencies in St. Petersburg, London, Dubai,

New Delhi, Shanghai, and Beijing. Prior to that, she was President and CEO of Junior Achievement of Nova Scotia. Ms. Coveyduck has a BPR from Mount Saint Vincent and a BA from Mount Allison. She connected with Saint Mary's when the Sobey School of Business was the host university for an international Junior Achievement conference, and

looks forward to building on the University's many great relationships with the business community.

Also new to Saint Mary's is **Dr. Zak McLaren**, Director of the TESL Centre. In addition to overseeing day-to-day operations, Dr. McLaren will focus on extending the centre's exposure. He looks forward to increasing the number of students who use the centre to improve their English for academic programs, and to addressing a more general need for non-academic language instruction. A newcomer to the Maritimes, McLaren grew up in Fort St. James, a small town in northern British Columbia. He has a BSSc from University of Ottawa, an M.Ed from University of Southern Queensland, and a PhD from Northcentral University. For the past 11 years, he has worked in Dubai with a public institution for higher education, most recently as Dean of Education and Developmental Learning.

**KUDOS**

The Saint Mary's University community was pleased to see **Carol Dodds MEd'90, MA'95** honoured as Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year at the 2014 Maritime Philanthropy Awards Dinner in May. In addition to her many other volunteer and fundraising interests, Mrs. Dodds is the driving force behind Time for Tea, an annual English tea party that began 14 years ago and has since raised more than \$400,000 for bursaries for single parents who attend the University. "I appreciate the honour," says Mrs. Dodds, "but I didn't do this alone. From the set-up crew to the bakers, tea- and sandwich-makers, helpers, donors and corporate sponsors, Time for Tea relies upon the unfailing generosity of Saint Mary's loyal friends and alumni. We have an exceptional group of committed volunteers, many of whom have been involved since the very first Time for Tea."



Saint Mary's Psychology professor **Kevin Kelloway** also took top honours in early June when he was elected President of the Canadian Psychological Association, Canada's largest psychology association. "It's a great honour to receive this endorsement from my peers," says Dr. Kelloway, Canada Research Chair in Occupational

Health Psychology. "It's also an endorsement of Saint Mary's. The university has had a very strong record in psychology for the past 30 years. Our PhD program in Industrial/Organizational psychology is widely recognized, and our CN Centre for Occupational Health and Safety is home to North America's largest collection of occupational health psychologists in a university-based centre." ♦

# GIVING BACK AND

## CELEBRATING A LIFE LIVED OUT LOUD



Dr. Kevin Bonnycastle was all about possibilities, so it seemed a fitting memorial when colleagues in Saint Mary's Sociology and Criminology department decided to mark her untimely passing with a student award.

For Saint Mary's alumnus Lawrence Buhagiar, making annual gifts to support this award was a dual opportunity to honour a very good friend and at the same time make a lasting difference for others.

"Scholarships and bursaries provide opportunities," says Buhagiar, a university instructor and Senior Policy Analyst with the federal government. "Kevin would have been very pleased by this. Despite conducting her research in federal penitentiaries, she never lost sight of the potential for change."

Buhagiar's friendship with Bonnycastle began in 1994 at Simon Fraser University, where she was completing her doctorate and he was doing a Master's degree after studying Criminology at Saint Mary's. "She lived out loud," says Buhagiar, paraphrasing the words of Emile Zola, "and it's important to those who knew her that she is not forgotten."

In describing Bonnycastle, Buhagiar paints a picture of an innovative thinker and gifted writer who was deeply concerned with sexism, colonialism, racism, economic inequality, and the connected injustices that abound in penal institutions. "She was serious about the need for social reform, but she also had a wicked sense of humour," he says, recalling a time when Bonnycastle moved some of the criminology books in the Simon Fraser University bookstore to other sections of the store in the hope that a science major might find one and change academic careers.

Long before she completed her doctorate, Bonnycastle decided that she wanted she to be a professor at Saint Mary's. She realized that ambition in 2004, throwing herself into her work until cancer interrupted her plans in 2006.

Shortly after Bonnycastle's passing in 2011, Drs. John McMullan and Val Johnson, her colleagues in the Sociology and Criminology department, met to discuss plans for an annual memorial award. Thanks to their efforts—and the generous support of friends and colleagues—the Kevin Bonnycastle Memorial Award will be presented for the first time this year to a full-time undergraduate majoring in Sociology and Criminology. Preference will be given to

Aboriginal students, especially those in financial need.

"Kevin had a special connection with the Aboriginal community," says Lawrence Buhagiar. "It means a great deal to me to see her honoured in this way."

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Donnie Keleher DipEng'69, BSc'70 loved Saint Mary's, so when the university's former Director of Development passed away in May 2014, his family asked Saint Mary's to add his name to the endowed scholarship fund already established by

Donnie's late father, Thomas J. Keleher (1918 to 1992).

"Donnie was instrumental in setting up Dad's endowment fund and we have all supported it in small ways over the years through annual donations and memorial tributes," says Donnie's sister, Mary Hellstrom. "Larger amounts came from a bequest left by our mother, Beryl, and Donnie's insurance policy."

The Keleher family has a two-generation connection with Saint Mary's that began in the 1960s when Donnie, Mary and their brother David attended the University. The second generation of Santamarians includes Mary's daughters, Christa Brothers and Amanda Hellstrom, and Donnie's daughter, Tara Keleher.

"Our parents weren't wealthy, but they were always willing to share," says Mary. "They taught us that regular people can make a big difference."

According to Mary, the key to establishing an endowed scholarship is to make a commitment and stick to it. "Any family can do this," says Mary. "It's more about how important it is to a family than the amount of money that family has. In my family it is very important, and we are all proud of what we've accomplished."

Endowed scholarships and bursaries are the foundation of Saint Mary's commitment to student financial aid. Thanks to the foresight of the Keleher family, the Thomas J. and Donald P. Keleher Memorial Scholarship is a lasting tribute to two remarkable individuals, and a wonderful example of the power of an endowment.

Whether you establish an endowed scholarship, or add to an existing endowment, the principal of your gift is invested to produce income that funds annual awards. Because the principal remains untouched, the endowment can last forever. What better way to create a lasting legacy to a loved one and, at the same time, open doors for a diverse community of learners? ✦

# PAYING FORWARD



*"The Thomas J. and Donald P. Keleher Memorial Scholarship helped me purchase books and pay for tuition. It also allowed me to devote more time to my studies and excel in my classes. My family and I are so thankful for this award and very grateful to the Keleher family for their generosity."*

*—Julia Purcell (2013-14 recipient)*

An endowed scholarship made a world of difference for Julia Purcell, a third year Environmental Science and Geography major from Middle Sackville, NS, shown above with Donnie Keleher's sister, Mary Hellstrom BSc'74, MBA'80. For information about establishing an endowed student award, or adding to an existing endowment, please contact Saint Mary's University's Development Office, either locally at 902-420-5496, or toll free at 1-888-SMU-GIVE (768-4483). Information is also available at [www.smu.ca/give](http://www.smu.ca/give)



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# WHAT DREAMS MAY COME

WELCOMING A VISIONARY,  
EVER-RISING GREAT ADVENTURER  
TO THE SAINT MARY'S FAMILY

BY SUZANNE ROBICHEAU



Bonnie Brooks, Vice-Chairman, Hudson's Bay Company

**B**onnie Brooks believes in magic. “If you can dream it, you can do it,” says the Vice-Chairman and self-described Chief Adventurer of the Hudson’s Bay Company.

During the spring of 2014, Brooks had two opportunities to offer that personal wisdom to the Saint Mary’s University community: during her induction into the University’s Turning Points Hall of Leadership, and next, during Convocation ceremonies, when she received a Doctor of Civil Law, Honoris Causa.

“Entering the Turning Points Hall holds a special meaning for me,” said Brooks, speaking in the Loyola Conference Room on April 23 during the annual Turning Points dinner. “Saint Mary’s is a special university and I am honoured to join a Hall of Leadership that includes both David Grace and Paul Sobey. Since joining the Board of Directors for Empire Company Limited, I have come to know and greatly respect the Sobeys, and it’s a true honour to look into

the audience and see members of the family. I am also thrilled to be here on the night when Marc Poulin, Empire’s new CEO, is speaking to all of us.”

As a driving force behind the world’s oldest continuously operating company, and a visionary who has built and repositioned fashion and luxury retail businesses around the world, Brooks had a unique perspective to share, both at Turning Points and in the address she delivered at Convocation.

“Retailing in Canada is extremely challenging and exciting right now,” says Brooks, “and it’s a great privilege to work with two of the finest companies in our country. Businesses with legacies like Sobeys and Hudson’s Bay Company are unique today—not only in Canada, but also globally. They have survived takeovers and retail wars and triumphed, not only because of their vision and strategic competencies, but also because they are companies with high integrity and authenticity.”

On receiving her honorary degree in May, Brooks again emphasized the

importance of ethical approaches to business, urging other “adventurers” gathered in the Halifax Metro Centre to take pride in their work and to practice integrity every day, in every deal they make, and with everyone they meet.

Quoting Canadian author Robin Sharma, a leadership expert whose book *The Leader Who Had No Title* inspired a culture shift at Hudson’s Bay, Brooks said: “Anyone in any job at any level in a company has the choice of interacting with others in a way that makes the experience a positive one or a negative one. When the experience is positive, it can be magic.”

For Brooks, there’s also magic in some of the places she has worked, including the United Kingdom, France, and Hong Kong. “Living and working in a foreign country was hard at first,” she admits, adding, “but it gave me a first-hand appreciation for other cultures—and in the course of my career—that has proved invaluable.” ♦

# BEHIND *the* SEAMS



photo: Michelle Doucette

*James Curleigh is the president of the Levi's Brand, one of the oldest, best-known, and best-liked clothing companies in the world. His career began here.*

BY TARA THORNE

“When we were at school, we still had this notion that information was power,” says James Curleigh BComm’89. “He or she who had access to it had the advantage. Well today, information is ubiquitous, everyone has access to it. What I would say the biggest shift is not how to get the information, but how to *synthesize* the information to make sense of it.”

Curleigh knows about synthesis—25 years after he graduated from Saint Mary’s, the Nova Scotia-raised brand manager has worked in offices all over the world, M&M, Mars, Salomon Sports, and Keen Footwear among them. In 2012, he became president of the Levi’s Brand.

Levi Strauss & Co. is headquartered in San Francisco, in Silicon Valley, and Curleigh is effusive and fired up on a morning phone call from his office, rattling off the brand’s history with a politician’s zeal, sometimes audibly pounding his desk for emphasis.

“Levi’s invented the blue jean. *We invented it*,” he says, detailing the jeans’ history beginning as uniforms for gold miners to soldiers’ civic clothes, “then after the war, *boom!* Think about Hollywood, think about James Dean, with or without a cause—pair of Levi’s, white shirt, leather jacket. All of a sudden it became this uniform of rebellion, the next generation.”

Woodstock. Bruce Springsteen on the cover of *Born in the USA*. The Berlin Wall, coming down. Kurt Cobain, throwing himself into a kick drum. Mark Zuckerberg’s flip-flops. Steve Jobs “launched the iPod out of the fifth pocket of a pair of 501s.”

As the son of a navy helicopter pilot—“my dad flew the very first Sea King into Nova Scotia”—Curleigh’s childhood took him all over North America, and to the Netherlands for most of high school, landing back in Halifax for his senior year.

“There are so many known options for individuals to pick the big-name schools, you know? Is it Harvard, Stanford, London School of Economics, the list goes on,” he says of his post-secondary options. “Certainly back when I had a choice I chose, quite frankly, to stay home, and to understand what I could get out of that experience. And then draw on the fact that I was in a city called Halifax in a province called Nova Scotia at a university called Saint Mary’s, and it was more up to *me* to then drive that to the future. Rather than the fact that I had a fancy Ivy League business title or I went to a big city called New York. Halifax really offers this simplicity of living and life and approach, backed by a sophistication of really great education, a very open environment of people, and taking that and bringing that around the world.”

Curleigh’s education took a turn for the cutting edge when he was in his final year at Saint Mary’s. “I don’t know if we’re still talking 400-levels, but a few of us were picked to kind of cross-pollinate with the MBA class. There were maybe 16 of us selected to do these cross-pollination courses at the 500 level,” he says. “They were not around technical business—they were around communication, project management skills, more the soft essential skills of business more than the hard technical skills of business. At the time there was a professor named Dr. Tom Musial, and he really spearheaded this notion—he had a vision that said, you know, the technical understanding of business will be in the hands of many, but the ability to take communication and convert that into leadership dynamics is the future challenge. And he literally set up a curriculum around that.”

That year, Saint Mary’s installed a networked Macintosh computer centre, featuring the first personal computer Curleigh would buy in his first days in London, the Mac SE. “It just showed that 3,000 miles away from San Francisco, California, where Apple was invented, the vision that Saint Mary’s had to actually start networking computers, getting ahead of technology—it sounds simple now but it was at the forefront of personal computing in 1988,” he says. “Before anyone was thinking about it.”

Now that everyone is thinking about it—about networks both technical and social; now that everyone has a personal brand; now that current students have never known a world without the internet, without a global reach, Curleigh’s

challenge is to keep Levi’s innovative.

“What I’ve recognized is Levi’s is at its best—by the way, any great brand is at its best—when it doesn’t *chase* the landscape, it *changes* the landscape. And that’s the landscape of style, of having a point of view, of confidence, of effortless cool—I mean that’s what Levi’s is, it’s effortless cool,” he says. “We’ve been able to change the landscape through Levi’s jeans.”

Three blocks from the company’s headquarters is the Eureka Innovation Lab, where new approaches to sustainability, craftsmanship, materials and the like are being studied and subverted. “The cultural leadership concept I put in place is I want Levi’s to be the 150-year-old startup,” says Curleigh. “How do you leverage the authenticity, the originality, the scale of Levi’s? We have 3,000 doors around



James Curleigh chats with Patricia Bradshaw, Dean of the Sobey School of Business.  
photo: Michelle Doucette

the world, we have the highest awareness of any clothing brand, we have the highest affinity—meaning not only do people *know* us, they *like* us.”

If you were a commerce grad, fresh out into the world who happened to meet Curleigh at one of the many conferences he appears at worldwide every year, or on one of his annual family trips home to Nova Scotia—his parents live in Parrsboro; he brought his children to campus for this photoshoot during his annual summer visit—he would tell you to wield your credentials like the badge they are.

“It really puts the onus on the individual not to be known by the city they’re from or the school they went to, but what they got out of the experience to then add back to it,” he says of attending Saint Mary’s. “I think it really positively forces individuals to stand on their own two feet with the confidence that they’re from an awesome city and a really, really good school.” ♦

BY SUZANNE ROBICHEAU

There was a time when Matthew Fanning dreaded public speaking. “It’s not unusual,” says Fanning, a Finance major who graduated from Saint Mary’s University in 2008 with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. “Most people would rather encounter a grizzly bear than stand on stage to deliver a speech.”

What *is* unusual is that after working for a few years, first as a personal trainer then as a sales rep for a medical supply company, Fanning set out quite purposefully to overcome his fear of public speaking by attending Toastmasters, a non-profit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through meetings held around the world.

“Toastmasters took me out of my comfort zone and gave me an edge,” says Fanning, who was



photo: Meghan Tansey Whitton

## SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

WHAT SCARES YOU MORE: RUNNING INTO A BEAR, OR PUBLIC SPEAKING?

born and raised in Lower Sackville, NS. “Employers clearly value communication skills and I was in an extremely competitive job market.”

Inspired by his own growth as a public speaker, Fanning developed an e-learning tool that’s designed to help students communicate confidently with everyone from friends and family to colleagues and employers. Launched in 2013, Presenters Podium does far more than improve public speaking skills: it also engages students more thoroughly in course material, and provides an opportunity to learn by doing. “That’s how we learn best,” says Fanning, who is the President and

Co-founder, “by making mistakes and receiving feedback.”

Speaking from experience, Fanning describes what he sees as the fatal flaw in delivering information through the traditional lecture format. “Our attention wanes after about 10 minutes,” he says. “In high school and university, I really tried to pay attention in class, but my mind would wander and I’d end up missing something important. More often than not, I relied more heavily on my textbooks than what the teacher said in class.”

Determined to improve the situation, Fanning identified a target market of innovative professors

at Saint Mary’s and asked them to try Presenters Podium. “First I approached Dr. Ellen Farrell,” he says. “I never had her as a teacher, but she has a reputation for innovative thinking and supporting students. If you’re interested in launching an idea, she’s the one to see.”

After doing what Fanning describes as “due diligence,” Farrell agreed to pilot the program in one of her classes, and with her on board, Fanning had soon reached a similar agreement with other professors. “I played the alumni card,” he says. “Saint Mary’s has a high number of proven innovators and I wanted their opinion.”

The cloud technology behind

Presenters Podium is complex, but the premise is amazingly simple. Professors upload questions and topics created specifically for their courses, students prepare presentations on these topics, practice online, record their presentations, and hit “go.” Evaluation comes from professors and small groups of classmates assigned for each topic. Because it all happens outside class time, professors are able to create many opportunities for students to practice and improve.

At first he wasn’t sure how well the program would work, but feedback from students quelled any doubts. “The results are amazing,” he says enthusiastically. “Even students who are very fearful and nervous about speaking in public have emerged from the program with confidence.”

Not only do students say that they find it easier to convey their ideas, but by conveying these ideas to members

of their group—essentially teaching their classmates—they master the material in a deeper way and come away from their courses with a greater understanding of theoretical concepts. “And the side benefit,” adds Fanning, “is that by working in small groups, the students really get to know each other and support each other’s learning—something that improves student retention.”

This fall, Presenters Podium will be offered in select classrooms at Saint Mary’s University, Dalhousie University, Mount Saint Vincent University, Nova Scotia Community College, University of New Brunswick, University of Moncton, New Brunswick Community College, and International Language Institution—“and all this without any serious marketing.”

The 29-year-old admits that Toronto had some attractions as a home base, but says that Nova Scotia makes more

sense. “We have a huge education presence and universities like Saint Mary’s that top *Maclean’s* magazine’s annual list of top 10 schools.”

Fanning and his team are presently developing additional platforms to support in-class instruction and help students build confidence in other areas that determine success. They are also planning to extend Presenters Podium beyond the Maritimes.

“Education has to change in order to respond to employers’ demands,” says Fanning. “Our platform helps students develop and refine their oral communication skills, but it also enhances ‘must-have’ employability skills such as critical thinking and problem-solving.”

All in all, it’s an attractive proposition, and one that Fanning is happy to talk about—even on stage at workshops and conferences. Now, he says with a grin, “I actually look forward to it.” ♦



photo: Michelle Doucette

## BOOMER TOWN

A GROWING COMPANY WITH ROOTS AT SAINT MARY’S, BOOMERWORKS GIVES SEASONED WORKERS A CHANCE TO STAY EMPLOYED LONGER

BY RENÉE HARTLEIB

Making it work in the Maritimes is a recurring theme for Kyler Crawford. He’s been around. Originally from Moncton, he completed two undergraduate degrees at St. Francis Xavier before a spell playing professional football in Germany. But it was a five-year stint at a large professional services firm in Ottawa that led to some serious thinking about reshaping his career. >

(cont. from page 15)

The 30-year-old began asking himself how to balance the good of the company against the value of its people. “I wanted to be in the room making the decisions, not outside the room waiting to carry out those decisions,” he says. “So I decided to go back and do my MBA at Saint Mary’s.”

SMU was the perfect fit. Kyler names some “amazing profs,” like Kevin Schwenker, Russell Fralich, and Thomas Storning, who were able to make meaningful connections between academic theory and their own professional practice.

Studying at SMU also meant a chance to see if Kyler could make it at home in the Atlantic region. “I wondered if I could do what I wanted and have the kind of success I wanted while living in the Maritimes.”

So far, so good.

*“We’re helping keep experienced professionals in the workforce longer.”*

As the Director of Operations for Boomerswork.com, an employment agency with a difference, Kyler helps connect retired and late career professionals with employers looking for experience and maturity. A mature startup, Boomerswork was started two years ago by Rick Emberley and is based on the premise that “the next person you hire should be able to help you immediately.”

“I like working there because I get to do exactly what I want to do—solve unstructured problems and challenge myself,” says Kyler, who is inspired and motivated by discussions about how Nova Scotia can pull together to address the province’s economic challenges. “We’re helping keep experienced professionals in the workforce longer. It’s a creative way to address succession planning, skills shortages, and other challenges that we collectively face.”

Not only is Boomerswork helping seasoned workers stay in the game longer, the company has also established a way for new entrepreneurs to learn the ropes from someone with lots of experience. Through these types of mentoring partnerships, Kyler hopes he is helping to build the capacity and economy of his adopted home province.

With offices in Halifax and Florida and plans for expansion, Kyler and his colleagues consider the east coast their living lab, a place to try things out and see if they work. “We’re experiencing demographic and economic pressures here that are going to hit other markets like Ontario and the rest of North America later.”

While a lot of work, his job truly is a labour of love. “As a growing company, we all have to roll up our sleeves and do what it takes to succeed,” says Kyler. “At the end of each day, I know I contributed something to the company, to our clients, and to Nova Scotia. It feels really good.” ♦

## ONCE UPON A MATTRESS

### HOW CHEN QING TURNED A PAIR OF FREE MOVIE TICKETS INTO A SUCCESSFUL HOME FURNISHING BUSINESS

BY SUZANNE ROBICHEAU

There’s a fairytale quality to Chen Qing’s success selling mattresses—but there’s nothing long ago and far away about the way the young Business Management major parlayed two free movie tickets into a Halifax-based business worth more than \$200,000.

The story begins only five years ago when a 19-year-old from China arrived in Halifax to attend the Sobey School of Business.

“Someone gave me tickets to the movies,” says Qing, who graduated from the Sobey School in 2014 with a Bachelor Degree in Commerce. “I didn’t have anyone to go with, so I sold them online.”

Buoyed by the speed of the sale, Qing tried his luck with other unwanted items—at first making a modest profit by posting them on a Kijiji-like website that’s specifically geared to Chinese students. The pot of gold came when he purchased a used mattress for \$20 and flipped it online for \$140. “University students need mattresses,” he says. “I could have sold that mattress many times.”

Recognizing a need, and realizing that students prefer buying new mattresses, Qing went to work convincing Canada’s major mattress manufacturers to supply him.

At first, the mattress makers worried about volume and credit. “I showed them my sales records and told them I’d pay up front,” says Qing. Next, they worried that he would return to China as soon as he graduated. “I told them I plan to stay here.”

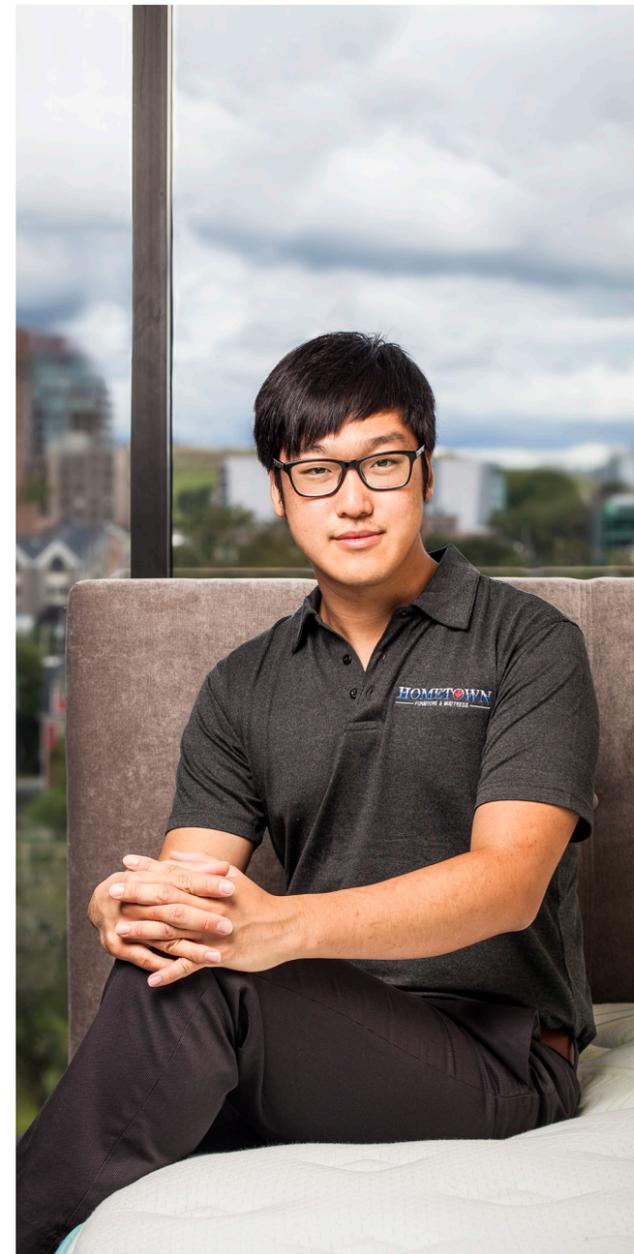


photo: Meghan Tansey Whitton

In time, Qing persuaded the eastern Canada sales representative for Simmons Beds and Mattresses to give him a chance. “You really blew our minds,” a Simmons executive told Qing. “This is the first time in 140 years of business that we have agreed to supply someone who has neither a store nor a showroom.”

With Simmons on board, Sealy and other big mattress companies followed. Qing now has five employees and conducts his sales in Chinese, Korean, Arabic, Indian, and English. His company, Hometown Mattress Limited, carries 13 models of mattresses and sells hundreds each year, primarily in the fall, and largely to students at Saint

Mary’s and other universities in Nova Scotia. “University students call me the Mattress Man,” he says with a grin. “I like the name. It’s great advertising.”

Despite a surge in business, and sales that have doubled every year, Qing continues to display his products in the spare bedroom of his 10th-floor penthouse apartment. Stock sits nearby in a 4,000-square-foot warehouse he rents. “I’ve considered leasing a storefront for sales,” he says, “but I’d have to raise prices in order to cover my costs.”

In Qing’s experience, customers are looking for quality, price, service and brand names they trust. And, in true fairy tale fashion, they’re keen to test the relative comforts of mattresses before they make a commitment. “If I can offer all of that,” asks Qing, “what does it matter whether my showroom is in a store or a penthouse?”

Success with mattresses encouraged Qing to branch out into other home furnishings: items he also displays in his own apartment. “As the business grew, my parents worried that it would interfere with my schoolwork,” he says, “but I was able to balance full-time school, full-time work, and still have time to get involved in other campus activities.”

*“University students call me the mattress man; I like the name.”*

In extra-curriculars, as in business, Qing went full-tilt during his time at Saint Mary’s, throwing his hat in as class valedictorian, and representing the University at the Enactus Provincial Championships for Nova Scotia in the spring of 2014. “I prepared for two months to give a speech in front of 18 judges,” he says.

The practice in public speaking will come in handy when he tries to convince the Canadian government to waive a rule that would force him to abandon his own business—and his employees—and work for someone else for one year to qualify as a permanent resident. “I can’t get into this immigration business until after the crazy back-to-school season,” he says.

Qing doesn’t hesitate when asked how Saint Mary’s contributed to his success. “I became part of a community and gained many valuable contacts with students from different cultures,” he explains.

He’s also quick to offer advice to other aspiring entrepreneurs. “Starting a business is one of the toughest things in the world,” he says, “but you won’t get tired if it’s something you love. Some people like playing video games. I like doing business.” ♦

# EVENTS

VISIT [SMU.CA/ALUMNI](http://SMU.CA/ALUMNI) FOR THE LATEST ALUMNI EVENT INFORMATION AND PHOTOS



**April 6, 2014**  
East Coast Music Association reception and gala in Prince Edward Island.



**June 5, 2014**  
Edmonton Pub Night at Hudson's Downtown.



**June 6, 2014**  
Make-A-Wish Rope for Hope: Patricia Bradshaw, Dean of the Sobey School of Business, was part of a three-woman team from Saint Mary's that rappelled down the Loyola Residence Building. She joined third-year student and SMUSA Student Activities Manager Amanda Kolwich and grad Sarah Ferguson BComm'09, CMA'11.



**July 7, 2014**  
TD Jazz Festival in Halifax: SMU alumni were invited to a VIP event to see The Heavy Blinkers and St. Vincent. Red Stag provided us with delicious catering, alumna Erin Stroud BA'09 made tasty cupcakes and Garrison kept us hydrated.



**August 14, 2014**  
27th Husky Howl Golf Tournament at The Cedarhill Golf and Country Club in Barrhaven, Ottawa. Paul Lynch BComm'76 presents the 2014 Husky Howl trophy to Patrick, Sean and Brian Dennehy (missing Michele Dennehy) at the Kichesippi Beer brewery.



**July 23, 2014**  
2nd Annual SMU Faculty and Staff BBQ at the Alumni Office.



**September 7, 2014**  
Santamarian Ceremony: New students gathered for a formal ceremony to sign the University Register and heard from a number of university officials, as well as Wendy Brookhouse BComm'91, EMBA'02, about her experiences as an alumna.



**September 5, 2014**  
The Alumni Office hosted a photo booth during the Welcome Week Shinerama BBQ.



**May 8, 2014**  
Turning Points in Leadership Speaker Series hosted by Troy MacDonald BComm'94 at Grant Thornton in Toronto.



**June 16 to July 2, 2014**  
Second Annual Hunger Games: A four-week inter-departmental food-raising competition in support of Feed Nova Scotia and in collaboration with Five Hole for Food. The participating departments collected 408.2 pounds of food!

**July 26, 2014**  
27th Annual Halifax Pride Parade: SMU Alumni, SMUQ, SMUSA, Residence and the football team joined the festivities.



**September 13, 2014**  
Stewart Galloway Retirement Celebration: Former members of the SMU men's soccer team came together to celebrate Stewart Galloway, who served as the Head Coach for 22 years.



**June 5, 2014**  
Atlantic University Pub Night: Hundreds showed up to SMU alumni-owned Hooleys Pub in Ottawa for the annual Maritimes university alumni pub night.



**June 11, 2014**  
Calgary Pub Night at Unicorn Pub.



**September 5, 2014**  
Tailgate Party: The Alumni Office and Alumni Association gave out food tickets and swag.



**September 13, 2014**  
Calgary Chapter hosted a SMU Alumni Tailgate Party at the Stampeders Game.

# HOMECOMING

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING EVENTS, OCTOBER 1-4, 2014



1. 40 Years of Women in Sport (above)

2. Golden Graduate Luncheon (below)



3. 1964 Golden Grads

4. Pub Night



From October 1st to 4th, alumni came back to campus to relive, reflect, and share their experiences as Huskies. Throughout the weekend, our Santamarians spoke of the importance of friendship, togetherness, and the lasting bonds between teammates and classmates. The Alumni Office is always looking for opportunities to connect with SMU Alumni. If you are interested in planning a reunion or reception, contact the office at [alumni@smu.ca](mailto:alumni@smu.ca).

- Members of the first Saint Mary's University women's basketball team. Saint Mary's celebrated 40 years of women in varsity sport on Friday, October 3rd with a reception that welcomed athletes, family, and friends back to campus.
- Over 150 Golden Graduates and guests gathered on Friday, October 3rd to celebrate and return to campus. A Golden Grad signifies 50 years or more of being a Saint Mary's alumnus. The day featured a Mass of Thanksgiving, displays of memorabilia and featured pieces from the Archives, along with a luncheon emceed by Fred MacGillivray HS'63.
- Those inducted into the Golden Grads this year, who had graduated from Saint Mary's University in 1964, gathered for a photograph after the luncheon. Senator Wilfred Moore BComm'64, presented the Toast to the University that highlighted the importance of giving back to current students.
- Friday night featured a special Pub Night that commemorated the 40th Anniversary of The Gorsebrook Lounge - our campus pub! The night had us on our feet and dancing with tunes from The Classics (including some alumni in the band!)
- 2014 Alumni Award recipients Tom Lee BA'88, Chanda Chilanga BComm'11, Kathy Mullane MBA'89, Gary Schmeisser, Beth Hamilton BComm'12, Dr. Maryanne Fisher, and Claire Miller BA'80 were recognized for their outstanding contribution to the Saint Mary's community, our province, and country.
- The 2014 One World Alumni Dinner was held in support of Junior Achievement of Nova Scotia. In March of 2015, Saint Mary's will select the 2015 recipient of the One World Alumni Dinner. Applications will be available at the end of January.
- We were fortunate to have a reunion group on campus that included our Men's Football team of 1964 that went on to win the Atlantic Bowl Championship in that year. Members of the team gathered for a photo during their week of events.



- THE SAINT MARY'S ALUMNI AWARDS** are presented annually to members of the Saint Mary's community. Nominated by their peers, colleagues, and friends, award recipients represent the best of Saint Mary's and are champions of the University. For more information about our award winners, please visit: [www.smu.ca/alumni](http://www.smu.ca/alumni)  
Distinguished Community Service Award Tom Lee BA'88, Claire Miller BA'80 | Volunteer of the Year Kathy Mullane MBA'89 | Young Alumni of the Year Beth Hamilton BComm'12, Chanda Chilanga BComm'11 | Father Stewart Medal for Excellence in Teaching Dr. Maryanne Fisher | Associate Alumnus Gary Schmeisser



6. One World Alumni dinner (above)

7. 1964 Men's Football Team (below)





Sport Hall of Fame inductee, Karen McKellar BA'83 (top right) with SMU women athletes at the Booster Brunch during Homecoming Weekend.

## SPORT HALL OF FAME

INDUCTEES ANNOUNCED DURING HOMECOMING 2014

The Saint Mary's University Sport Hall of Fame welcomed four new members on Homecoming Weekend in October; a long-serving athletics director, two outstanding athletes, and a championship basketball team.

Dr. David Murphy, already in the Hall as a member of the 1964 Atlantic Bowl-winning Huskies football team, now enters in the builder and athlete categories. While completing his dental studies that would see him become chief medical officer at Dartmouth General Hospital, Murphy served as an assistant coach, under Al Keith, on the first Huskie team to win a CIAU football championship in 1973. He served as the University's Athletics and Recreation Director for five years starting in 2003. He made his return to Saint Mary's in 2012 for a temporary second term in the position. Dr. Murphy's leadership was instrumental in contributing to the academic success of the student-athletes. During his tenure, the school's Academic All-Canadian numbers rose from 21 to 71.

"His spirited stand for excellence in the classroom, citizenship and community service for all Huskie athletes, and unbridled enthusiasm in supporting athletes competing at the highest level of the AUS and CIS sport, have been key to developing the confidence, spirit and self-esteem of hundreds of young men and women each year who don the maroon and white and who contribute to a sports heritage and tradition that is unmatched in Atlantic Canada Universities for the past 50 years," says former SMU head basketball coach and Acadia star Brian Heaney.

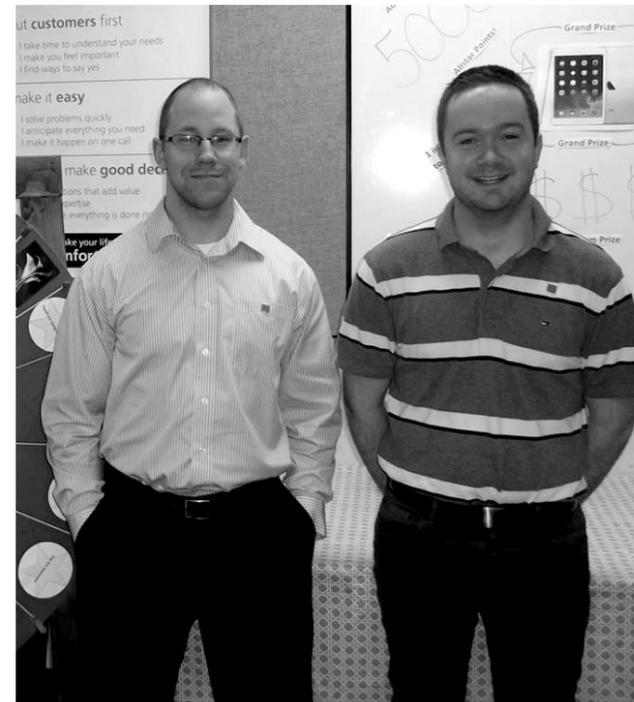
A star in both field hockey and basketball, Karen McKellar established herself as a two-sport star at SMU.

As captain of both the field hockey and basketball teams for the Huskies, she was also named Rookie of the Year in 79/80 and a two-time SMU Athlete of the Year (81/82 and 82/83). Coach Helen Castonguay called her "one of the toughest players she coached in 40 years."

Suzanne Muir was also a standout in two sports. A force in both soccer and basketball, she ran the Huskies' offence on the court as a 5'8" point guard and was equally dominant on the pitch. Her list of achievements include being a five time AUAA All-Star and an AUAA MVP; a first and second team All-Canadian in 1990 and again in 1992.

In 1992, Muir led the Huskies to their first-ever CIAU women's soccer final in Hamilton where they finished 5th. She was named an all-star in that tournament. She was a member of Canada's national team from 1992 to 1999 and played in World Cups in Sweden and the United States.

Rounding out this year's inductees to the Saint Mary's Sport Hall of Fame are the CIS National Men's Basketball Champions from 1999. Coached by Ross Quackenbush, who became the first in CIS history to win a national title as a player and coach on the same team, this Huskies team finished the regular season with a 12-8 record. In the 1999 AUS tournament they defeated Dalhousie and Acadia and were ranked 7th going into the CIS championships at the Halifax Metro Centre. Led by Jonah Taussig, Patrick Toulouse, Kurt Henry, Ryan McClintock, and Cory Janes, the Huskies defeated Western University, McMaster, and the University of Alberta Golden Bears to give the Huskies their fourth national basketball title. In the championship game, the first ever to be decided in overtime, the Huskies defeated the Golden Bears 73-69. ♦



Matthew Jaques and Alex Gandy.

## SELF-INSURED

A PAIR OF SAINT MARY'S GRADS HAVE FOUND A DYNAMIC HOME AT TD INSURANCE MELOCHE MONNEX

BY RENÉE HARTLEIB

A buzz of energy flows through the maze of cubicles at the TD Insurance office on Bayers Road in Halifax. Employees wearing headsets talk with customers on the phone while recognition awards suspended from the ceiling spin slowly over their desks. This is clearly a goal-driven work environment, and just one of the reasons two of their employees—both recent Saint Mary's University grads—enjoy working there.

After completing their business degrees, Matthew Jaques BComm'13 and Alex Gandy BComm'12 were hired by TD Insurance as advisors, counselling and selling home and automobile insurance to prospective customers in Atlantic Canada. Both are positive about securing a foothold and launching their careers with the largest group insurer in Canada. There's also a nice link with Saint Mary's.

"Saint Mary's University has been in partnership with TD Insurance Meloche Monnex since 1996, offering SMU alumni savings opportunities through its group home and auto insurance products and services," says Sally Rollings, Relationship Manager, Affinity Market

Group, TD Insurance Meloche Monnex. In fact, the company is in partnership with over 83% of universities and colleges in Canada.

"I see a lot of possibilities here for me," says Jaques. "I appreciate the interaction with co-workers and clients and I like that it's fast-paced."

As someone who has always liked to set his own goals, he's also smart about money. Living at home in Cole Harbour while getting his business degree, he managed to load all his courses into two days per week. "This enabled me to also work a 40-hour week all through university," he says. "I learned how to manage my money well."

*"I always want to enjoy what I do." -Alex Gandy*

Alex Gandy worked his way through university too, although not in your typical student jobs. A championship bagpiper, Gandy made enough money teaching bagpipes and playing at various events to pay his way through school and avoid student loans.

The son of a professional piper, Gandy has racked up plenty of kudos in the piping world and could easily have made a career out of playing the pipes. Indeed, he spent two years living in Scotland doing just that—but the global economic meltdown of 2008 made him do some serious thinking.

"I was having a great time, living in Glasgow and travelling but when the financial crisis hit, I realized I needed to make sure I had something stable," he says. "I decided a career in insurance and finance made a lot of sense."

Like Jaques, it was a high school business class that first sparked Gandy's interest in business and finance and lead him to consider a commerce degree at Saint Mary's. "It's a course of study that can lead to a lot of different things and that really appealed to me."

In their mid-20s, Jaques and Gandy are just getting started in their careers. Both are taking the Canadian Securities course to further their careers. Jaques is also studying to write the GMAT and plans to start his MBA next year. "I like a challenge," he says. "I love learning about the world of business and understanding more about why things are done the way they are."

Where the open doors of opportunity will lead, they don't know, but both are clear on one thing: success isn't just about the size of the paycheque. "Success is such an individual thing," says Gandy. "It's something that you have to define for yourself. I always want to enjoy what I do. That's how you know you're on the right path." ♦



## GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thank you to our golfers, volunteers, and Granite Springs for making the 2014 SMU Alumni Golf Tournament a successful event. Thank you also to our Prize and Hole Sponsors: Atlantic Business Interiors & their Partners: National Office Furniture, Capital Paper, Coca Cola, Granite Springs Golf Club, Golf Central, Jazz East, Johnson Controls Incorporated, McInnes Cooper, Rodd Hotels and Resorts, Simplex Grinnell, Siemens, SMU Dept. of Athletics & Recreation, SMU IT Dept., SMUSA, TD Insurance Meloche Monnex, Tremco.

Through your support, we were able to award twenty \$1,000 bursaries to well deserving students.

Congratulations to Siemens on winning the 2014 Alumni Tournament and taking home the Granville "Bullet" Kelly Trophy. ♦

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Venus Envy



**Kimberlee Williams BA'10** studied Anthropology with a focus in Archaeology and a minor in Classics when she attended Saint Mary's University. While pursuing her degree she joined the Anthropology Society and remained active in the Arts. It is no surprise that she is now responsible for maintaining all memberships for the largest art museum in Atlantic Canada, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.

The Alumni Office was delighted to hear from Kimberlee, who sought out her alma mater to develop our most recent loyalty partnership. Alumni who present their Alumni Card at the Art Gallery are now eligible for a 25% discount off admission. The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia is located at 1723 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Check it out online at: [artgalleryofnovascotia.ca](http://artgalleryofnovascotia.ca)

All you need to take advantage of discounts with partnering companies is an Alumni Card—and it's free! You can fill out our easy form at [smu.ca/alumni/alumni-card](http://smu.ca/alumni/alumni-card) or contact our office at [alumni@smu.ca](mailto:alumni@smu.ca) or 902-420-5420. We'll be happy to mail you a card and get you started on saving money as an alumnus!

Make sure you check out a list of our partners online, and learn about added benefits to having an Alumni Card such as discounts on campus and events including Varsity games.

If you are interested in having your company or organization participate in our program as a Loyalty Partner, you can contact our Alumni Officer, Sarah MacDonald, for an information package. You can reach her at [sarah.b.macdonald@smu.ca](mailto:sarah.b.macdonald@smu.ca) or by calling 902.496.8276. ♦

# CLASS NOTES

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR SNIPPET INCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE EMAIL [ALUMNI@SMU.CA](mailto:ALUMNI@SMU.CA)

## 1958

### Dennis Cato BA'58

After graduating with a BA (History & Philosophy) I received a BEd from Dalhousie, an MEd (Teaching History) and MA (Philosophy of Education) from McGill and a PhD (Philosophy of Education) from the University of Ottawa; in addition to having taught in Halifax, Rome (The British Institute of Rome), Calgary, Barcelona (The American High School), and finally in Montreal. I have had papers published in the "Journal of Philosophy of Education" (Great Britain), "Educational Theory" (University of Illinois), "Interchange" (University of Toronto), "The Journal of Educational Thought" (University of Calgary), "Paideusis" (the journal of the Canadian Philosophy of Education Society), and *The McGill Journal of Education*. I have given papers at Philosophy of Education conferences held at Froebel College, University of London, twice at New College, Oxford University, at St. Edmunds College, Cambridge University, and at the Catholic University of Leuven (Louvain), Belgium. I have just submitted another paper to the journal of Philosophy of Education for possible publication.

## 1982

### Paul Abraham Med'82/BEd'80/BS'79 and Anne Marie Abraham BComm'80

Paul and Anne Marie Abraham (daughter of the late Dr. W. A. Bridgeo SMU Dean Emeritus) have been living in the United Arab

Emirates for the past 15+ years. Paul is Assistant Director, Student Affairs at Zayed University. Anne Marie was the Executive Assistant to the Canadian Ambassador for five years. They own a successful consulting business. Paul and Anne Marie have been married for 34 years and have two daughters and one grandson.

## 1987

### Dale McClare BA'86 & Mike Brown BA'87, MA'95

Former Saint Mary's graduates and SMU defensive backs Dale McClare ('86 BA) and Mike Brown ('87 BA, '95 MA) at a get together at Dale's summer cottage in Fox Point, NS. They posed with a portrait of SMU football players that Dale painted. Some of the players in the portrait include QB Chris Flynn and Head Coach Larry Uteck. Dale currently teaches English and resides in Abu Dhabi, UAE with his wife Etsuko and daughter Nell. Mike is the Director of International Student Programs at the Hillside School in Marlborough, MA where he lives with his wife Kumi.

## 1991

### Kenneth Moore BComm'91

In December 2013, I was promoted to VP, Corporate Controller at Hitachi Data Systems, a wholly owned subsidiary of Hitachi Limited in Japan. HDS is headquartered in Santa Clara California, in the heart of Silicon Valley. I started with HDS in January 2012 as a Senior Director of Corporate Accounting & Revenue Compliance. HDS competes in the

enterprise storage space with EMC and NetApp and has approximately 6,000 employees worldwide.

## 1994

### Dr. Carolyn G. Thomas BA'94

I recently returned from a trip to Alabama, where my daughter and I had the privilege of retracing the steps of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Reverend Ralph Abernathy, John Lewis, Reverend Jesse Jackson, Dr. Rosa Parks, and other prominent members of the Civil Rights movement. I previously met many of these wonderful people and was directly involved in the struggle with them. To visit Dr. King's church on Dexter Street and Dr. Park's Memorial Museum, in Montgomery was awesome. Hats off to them, many of whom it would be posthumously. Their work was not in vain as they made a major contribution to our global society. Our visit to Alabama was to spend time with our dear friends/family, Harold and Josephine Thompson. Harold, who was the first person to handle 'moon stones' in his lab at Harvard University. We were blessed.

## 2001

**Sonya (Pomeroy) Taggart BA'01**  
Congratulations to Lloyd and Sonya Taggart who welcomed their first baby, Hannah Marie Taggart on August 20, 2014.

## 2005

### Jarvis Googoo BA'05

Jarvis was recognized with an Instructor of Excellence Award

for GoodLife Fitness (HRM), and named one of Top 20 instructors for GoodLife Canada-wide. He is also considered one of the Top 500 Performing Associates.

### Sebastian "Seb" Clovis BA'05

Seb debuted his new home reno show *Tackle My Reno* Tuesday, August 26 on HGTV. The pro-football-player-turned-contractor will be coaching overwhelmed homeowners in fixing their home-renovation disasters.

## 2004

### Bryan Arthur BComm'04

I wanted to share a recent award my firm, BlueEra, received. We won the 2014 Alberta's Best Workplace Award and I would like to share it amongst my fellow alumni: Recognized as having one of the largest networks in Canada, Bryan speaks regularly on social media and online networking. Bryan brings superior research and networking abilities to his role of helping clients find top talent for their teams. Bryan holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree, a Certified Human Resources Professional designation and has also recently completed the Advanced Program in Executive Search Consulting at Cornell University. He is currently on the Board of Directors of Champions Career Centre. Previously, Bryan has been a member of the United Way Cabinet, and a past Director of the Human Resources Association of Calgary.

## 2007

### Matthew Robinson, CA BComm'07

The Robinson Family is happy to announce the addition of Zaven Samuel Bryan Robinson (class of 2035), brother of Briella (class of 2032), son of Matthew (BComm 2007) and Kayla (nee Wexler, unfortunately a tiger but we don't hold it against her) and Grandson of Brian BComm 1983, on August 20th 2014.

## 2010

**Brittany Hilton BA'10** is currently living in Tanzania, Africa. After rescuing Marley, a baby vervet monkey from an illicit trade, she raised him in her home at the Dr. Jane Goodall institute in Tanzania.

## Saint Mary's Writes

### Roost

by Ali Bryan BComm'00  
Roost is a novel that explores family issues It is an accessible, humorous book that also tackles serious issues such as the death of a parent, divorce, and caring for an aging parent.

### The Power of Children: The Construction of Christian Families in the Greco-Roman World

by Margaret Y. MacDonald BA'83  
This book examines Christian teaching about children in the context of family life in the Roman world. MacDonald is currently serving as the Dean of Arts at Saint Mary's University.

### The Blue Tattoo

by Steve Laffoley MAH'91, BA'87  
The Blue Tattoo tells the sweeping story of the lives caught up in the

unbelievable devastation of the Halifax Explosion.

### Married Women and the Law. Coverture in England and the Common Law World

Edited by Saint Mary's University Professor of History Tim Stretton and Dalhousie University professor Krista J. Kesselring.

### Niches

by Ali Bryan BComm'00  
Where do you fit in a crazy world? By former Dean of Education at Saint Mary's University, Dr. Michael R. MacMillan (Dr. Mac). Following an exploration of (love), the fundamental focus of the book is discovering what (work) you do best and harmonizing it with how you earn your living.

Please send snippets to: Saint Mary's University Alumni Office 923 Robie Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3C3 [alumni@smu.ca](mailto:alumni@smu.ca) | [smu.ca/alumni](http://smu.ca/alumni)

## In Memoriam

**Marion Bragg**  
BA'84  
August 22, 2014

**John "Peter" Burchelle**  
SMHS'51  
February 22, 2014

**Dale B. Carman**  
BEd '74  
May 17, 2014

**Peter Feron**  
SMHS'49  
September 5, 2014

**Philip M Flinn**  
BComm'62  
September 12, 2014

**Gerald R. 'Gerry' Geldart**  
BComm'73  
September 6th, 2014

**Grant Mansfield Josey**  
BA'69  
August 25, 2014

**Donald Peter Keleher**  
BSc'70  
May 23, 2014

**John Kelleher**  
ALND'64  
August 15, 2014

**Rev. Jeremiah (Jerry) Mackey**  
BA'46  
September 3, 2014

**Donald Morrison**  
BEd'75  
August 22, 2014

**Stewart Pye**  
BComm'69  
August 20, 2014

**Blaine L. Whynott**  
BA'77  
August 6, 2014

## In Sympathy

**Fr. Kevin McKenna**  
March 22, 2014

**Loretta Saunders**  
February 13, 2014

**Hubert C. Soltan MD, PhD, FCCMG**  
September 12, 2014

**Tammy Marie CORBETT (Jeans)**  
September 23, 2014

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JENNIFER LIU  
BCOMM'12, CERHRM'12

## CATCHING UP WITH ALUMNI

Choosing Saint Mary's University was one of my best decisions ever! Confidence, determination, and independence: these are the characteristics I developed as an international student. My favourite student community was Enactus, which might have a little to do with finishing second place at Regional Competition (Financial Education Challenge) in 2011. I loved it so much I started the Nova Scotia chapter of the Enactus Alumni Network.

These days I am working as a Project Coordinator at Innovacorp. The company finds, funds, and fosters innovative Nova Scotia start-ups that strive to change the world. I'm involved in several entrepreneurship programs, including the Early Stage Commercialization Fund, I-3 Technology Start-Up competition, Start-Up Visa program, and Business Over Breakfast series. In my spare time I have earned my Certified Associate in Project Management and strengthened my coding skills (in HTML, CSS, and Wordpress) through the Ladies Learning Code program.

I also volunteer as Co-Chair of the Engagement Committee for the Saint Mary's University Alumni Association; I'm the Director of Immigration and Diversity at FUSION Halifax (our featured project is the immigrant entrepreneur showcase—130 attendees, 13 immigrant-owned businesses and local business support organizations, five guest speakers); I'm a connector at Greater Halifax Partnership's Connector Program; I work with the local chapter of Project Management Institute as well as the Canadian Association of Business Incubation.

I'm staying in Nova Scotia for the strong network, the vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, and the lifestyle. Saint Mary's University provided me rich resources in its academic programs, extracurricular activities, and career development support. My manager Shelley Hessian is an amazing boss and mentor. She introduced me to the Alumni Association and it's a great network to keep in touch with our school after graduation. I also encourage young alumni and international graduates to stay in touch.

My advice to young graduates and students (domestic and international) is to take time to experience a different culture. Open your eyes to the world. Being an international student is not easy, but neither is being true to yourself. Once you achieve your goals and embrace the local culture, you will discover that speaking a second language is no longer a weakness—it's a strength.

*Jennifer Liu BComm'12, CERHRM'12*

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