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Fall 2016

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EDITOR: Renée Hartleib

ART DIRECTION: Spectacle Group
C. Lynn Redmond BA'99

COVER PHOTO: Meghan Tansey Whitton

CONTRIBUTORS: Erin Elaine Casey, Tim Damon, Renée Hartleib, Lezlie Lowe, Suzanne Robicheau, Jordan Whitehouse

ALUMNI DIRECTOR: Mary Ann Daye BComm'85

ALUMNI OFFICERS: Marla Douglas MBA'13, Emily LeBlanc

ASSOC. VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: Margaret Murphy BA Hon, MA

ADVERTISING: (902) 420-5420

ALUMNI COUNCIL PRESIDENT: President: Mary-Evelyn Ternan MEd'88, BEd'70, BA'69
VICE-PRESIDENT: Sarah Ferguson CMA BComm'09 SECRETARY: Dan Rudisuela BComm'07, MBA'08
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Please send address changes, suggestions, and snippets to: Saint Mary's University Alumni Office, 923 Robie St, Halifax, NS B3H 3C3 | T: (902) 420-5420 | F: (902) 420-5140 | E: alumni@smu.ca | smu.ca/alumni

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

As my two-year term as Alumni President comes to a close, I am reminded of what a wonderful family we have at Saint Mary's. It was a privilege to have represented over 44,000 Alumni who are in the four corners of the globe. Our university is a vibrant and world-class institution. We should all take great pride in it. I am amazed by the variety of programs that are offered and by the exceptional professors who deliver them.

There has been an enormous change on campus since I arrived as one of the first 50 female students when the university went co-ed. It was the fall of 1968 and there were 1573 full-time students, with hardly a female washroom or lounge to be found. Today, SMU is 48% women. Out of a total of 6979 full-time and part-time students, 3350 are female. Our students come from all parts of Canada and from 118 countries. It is truly an international experience where we are creating citizens of the world.

It is a great time to be associated with our Alma Mater. Check our Alumni Events to see if we will be in your city. These reunions are great for networking. And if you didn't make it for Homecoming 2016, do try for 2017. You will be astounded to see our campus and meet our students. If a visit isn't possible, follow us online, and please consider supporting SMU financially. Every little bit helps to ensure the continuation of our quality education.

I would like to sincerely thank my Executive team of Mike McKenzie, Sarah Ferguson, and Dan Rudisuela. I wish the incoming Executive under the leadership of Sarah Ferguson all the best.

Go Huskies Go!

Mary-Evelyn Ternan

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

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING HERE

BY SUZANNE ROBICHEAU

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

The Hon. Lena Diab, NS Minister of Immigration; Dr. Robert Summerby-Murrary, President of Saint Mary's University; MLA Joachim Stroink; Dr. Ailan Fu, Vice President & Provost, Beijing Normal University Zhuhai.

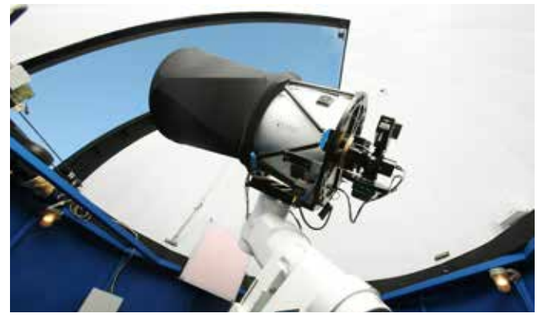
A TREE GROWS AT SAINT MARY'S

One of the most recently planted trees on Saint Mary's campus celebrates a long-standing relationship with Beijing Normal University, Zhuhai (BNUZ). Faculty members and administrators from BNUZ marked the completion of a 14-day summer institute at Saint Mary's by planting a Seven Sons Flower Tree. A fragrant member of the Honeysuckle family, this rare tree was once threatened, but is now subject to national protection in China.

TWITTER PRAISE

Heralded as the world's first Twitter-controlled telescope, the Dr. Ralph Medjuck Telescope in Saint Mary's Burke-Gaffney Observatory made the cut when Twitter celebrated its 10th birthday by highlighting the top ten unique uses of the social media platform for 2016.

Many observatories use Twitter as a way to reach out to the public, but it's generally humans on a keyboard who respond to questions and send pictures. By equipping the Burke-Gaffney Observatory with a twitter-controlled application, Saint Mary's makes it possible for amateur astronomers and professionals from around the world to use the University's website to request astronomical photos. Using the Twitter handle @smubgobs, the Dr. Ralph Medjuck Telescope Weather takes space-image requests from Twitter users, tweets back a confirmation, and captures the requested images on the next clear night.



The Dr. Ralph Medjuck Telescope.

MAKING HEALTHCARE HEALTHIER

Looking for a graduate program that prepares students to tackle key issues in health policy research, delivery, and administration? Look to Saint Mary's new Master of Applied Health Services Research (MAHSR) program, now accepting its first students. Funded by the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation in partnership with the Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit, the MAHSR program is offered in collaboration with Memorial University, the University of Prince Edward Island, and the University of New Brunswick. Completed over two years, the program includes eight web-based courses, workshops, residency, and thesis research. "Saint Mary's has excellent research being pursued in health care systems, patient outcomes, and social, cultural, and environmental factors that affect the health of populations," says Dr. Kevin Vessey, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research at Saint Mary's, "but this is our first graduate program to have health as the main focus."

BURIED TREASURE

Thanks to a geophysical survey, Saint Mary's researchers are one step closer to solving a more than 250-year old mystery. In the continuation of an investigation begun by Saint Mary's professor Jonathan Fowler, a team of Anthropology students led by adjunct professor, Dr. Eric Henry, has uncovered evidence of the long-buried remains of a star-shaped fort near Nova Scotia's historic Lunenburg Academy. Built by the British in 1753 as a defense for the town, the earth and wood structure was first noted on a map drawn around 1753. An integral part of the settlement's protection, the fort could fill in major gaps in Nova Scotian history.

President Robert Summerby-Murray and David Wang.

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Both Saint Mary's University and the Province of Nova Scotia will benefit from a recent gift of $1 million from David Wang, the manager of a Nova Scotia curriculum high school in China and a very good friend of Saint Mary's. The David Wang Scholarship Fund will support eight prestigious scholarships of $20,000 per year. What makes these scholarships unique is that they are awarded to Chinese students currently studying at a Canadian Curriculum high school in China. Because of this Canadian foundation, these students are proving to be more likely to excel at Saint Mary's, remain in the province, and contribute to the local economy. "I want to congratulate and say thank you to Mr. Wang for this very generous gift," said Premier Stephen McNeil. "Being able to attract and retain international students is an important part of our government's commitment to increase immigration to the province. This scholarship fund will help with those efforts as we work to grow Nova Scotia's economy and population."

Lunenburg Academy dig site.

The Saint Mary's Enactus team.

PULLING TOGETHER FOR THE GREATER GOOD

For the fourth year in a row, the Saint Mary's Enactus team competed against teams from more than 60 Canadian universities to place in the top four in Canada at the National Enactus Exposition. The Saint Mary's team also shone as second runner up in the Scotiabank Eco-Living Challenge for an environmental project that diverted almost 2400 lbs. of waste from landfills by upcycling material for refugee families. These achievements are only the latest for members of Saint Mary's ENACTUS, an international, non-profit organization that sets up campus chapters to develop entrepreneurial students who want to make a difference. Last winter, our team made history by going up against 13 Enactus groups from universities in Atlantic Canada to win first place trophies in every single category at the Enactus regional competition.

Master of Technology Entrepreneurship and Innovation (MTEI) program teams.

WOMEN'S RUGBY MOVES

Two stellar contributors to Saint Mary's women's rugby are switching roles this year. Assistant coach, Amber Davison, takes over responsibilities as head coach and former head coach, Megan Kinsman, assumes the role of assistant coach. Davison played with the Acadia Axewomen for five years and was a member of Team Atlantic. She continues to play with the Nova Scotia Senior Women's Keltics. Her coaching experience includes acting head coach for the Nova Scotia U20 Women's Keltics, assistant coach of Nova Scotia U18 7's team, and coaching duties at Halifax West High School, as well as the Halifax Rugby Football Club's mini program.

"Amber is very familiar with the program and the local rugby scene," says Kevin Downie, Director of Athletics & Recreation at Saint Mary's. "She has an impressive resume and clearly loves her sport. We are very lucky to have her."

INSPIRING COMPETITION

Thanks to the generosity of Saint Mary's alumni Mike and Catherine Durland, three teams from our Master of Technology Entrepreneurship and Innovation (MTEI) program each received a prize of $20,000 in the 2nd annual Durland Innovation Fund Competition. The winning projects were ProTell, a wearable technology designed to help those who suffer from sickle cell anemia; SWAP, a security technology that thwarts hackers and thieves by using fingerprints to validate credit cards; and SeeMePly, a technology to help African students apply for post-secondary education. In related news, ProTell and SeeMePly went on to place in the top 20 out of 5000+ teams from around the world at the 4th Annual International Business Model Competition (IBMC) at Microsoft's corporate headquarters in Redmond, Washington.

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The Saint Mary's University's Model UN delegation.

MIRRORING THE UNITED NATIONS

Saint Mary's University's Model UN delegation, headed by Political Science Chair, Dr. Marc Doucet, was one of only four delegations from Canadian universities to be awarded a Distinguished Delegation Award at the 2016 National Model United Nations (NMUN) Conference. The Saint Mary's team competed against 5,500 students from more than 400 schools, debating, negotiating, and drafting resolutions in simulated UN committees during two, back-to-back conferences held in New York last spring. In other Model UN news, this year's delegation included 18 students from Saint Mary's and four from Freiburg University of Education in Germany – a joint effort that marks a first for Saint Mary's.

DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Saint Mary's psychology professor Dr. Maryanne Fisher continues to be honoured and acknowledged for her teaching excellence. Dr. Fisher was recently awarded a 2016 Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) Distinguished Teaching Award. This annual award recognizes excellence in teaching and educational leadership. Since joining the Saint Mary's Department of Psychology in 2004, Dr. Fisher has been the recipient of a number of honours and awards including 2014 Father William A. Stewart, S. J., Medal for Excellence in Teaching; 2014 Canada Progress Club, Women of Excellence Award; 2011 Overall Excellence in Education, Saint Mary's University; and the 2008 Saint Mary's University Students' Association Teaching Excellence Award, Faculty of Science.

When asked what she likes most about teaching, Dr. Fisher emphatically answers, "the students!" Her favourite moments involve watching the students navigate their way through in-class exercises and laughing with each other. "They are actively engaging with the content, but in a way that is authentic and meaningful."

MAKING AN IMPACT

Two programs offered by the Sobey School Business Development Centre —Options and The Spark Zone— took "Best in North America" at the Global Best Awards, sponsored by the Conference Board of Canada and the International Partnership Network. A previous Global Best Awards winner, Options has successfully helped more than 300 marginalized-youth transition into jobs and further education through mentorship, skill building, financial literacy, and work experience. The Spark Zone, a student business sandbox with a physical space on Saint Mary's campus, is a collaboration between Saint Mary's University and three other institutions – Mount Saint Vincent University, the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and the Nova Scotia Community College. It focuses on growing student businesses through business modeling, pitch competitions, training sessions, conferences, speaker series, and mentorship opportunities. "We always feel that we are making a significant impact at the local level," says Michael Sanderson, Manager of Skill Development and Training at the Sobey School Business Development Centre. "To see that work recognized on a global scale is a tremendous achievement. We are truly honoured."

PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR PICKS PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR

Judging the Giller Prize is no easy feat—even for 2010 Giller finalist Dr. Alexander MacLeod, a prize-winning author and Saint Mary's professor of English and Atlantic Canada Studies. As part of his duties as a juror for the 2015 Giller Prize, Dr. MacLeod read 168 works of Canadian fiction in seven months. He also had countless Skypes, conference calls, and meetings with fellow jurors, before heading to Toronto to make the final decision. ✧

Lorraine Vassalo, owner of Avondale Sky Winery.

COOPERATION & SUCCESS
in Nova Scotia's Wine Industry

BY LEZLIE LOWE

Lorraine Vassalo looks out her office window beyond the brackish Avon River toward the expanse of North Mountain. Around her on the Avon Peninsula sprawl 23 bountiful acres of grape vines. This is no small scene. But it's the top-half of the portrait that really makes it—the sky. Today, a calm grey stippled with darker streaks.

"Remarkable" is one word Vassalo has for it, a view tremendous enough to inspire the name of her business and second career—Avondale Sky Winery.

It was in 2008, after retiring from a career with the provincial government, that Vassalo and her husband, Stewart Creaser, leapt into the wine business. Despite a shared passion for all things red, white, and rosé, buying a vineyard was a personal and professional stretch—like nothing either of them had done before.

Vassalo's 1990 Masters of Business Administration in finance helped, especially the focus on entrepreneurship. Owning a winery "was something that really grabbed us," she says. "Whether you succeed or fail, it's on you."

An unanticipated and welcome upshot of the first eight years of making wine has been the opportunity for a sort of perennial education for the pair. "It's learning forever," she says. "It's our hope we can do it into our 80s."

Avondale Sky is off Exit Five on Highway 101. Vassalo can't see the gaggle of other wineries clustered along Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley. But her competitors and comrades are never far.

In her cellar, Vassalo has some riddling racks (that hold sparkling wines on an angle, cork-down, to finish the aging process) owned by Benjamin Bridge vineyards, four exits down Highway 101. She borrowed them to help make Avondale's sparkling varieties. It's hardly a cup of sugar from the next-door neighbour, but it speaks to the Nova Scotia wine industry's co-operative spirit.

Saint Mary's Claudia DeFuentes.

And it goes both ways. Vassalo generously loans out Avondale's equipment, too. "At some point, our mechanical leaf plucker—which is quite an expensive piece of equipment that we only need two days a year—will go off to someone else. It saves them from having to buy it."

The Nova Scotia wine industry passes around much more than gadgets. When a competitor extends its tendrils to Vassalo looking for technical or market help, someone at Avondale Sky always answers the query.

Sharing, Vassalo says, is "what we're about." The 57-year-old Cape Breton native credits this impulse to her time in the Saint Mary's MBA program. There, students were encouraged to share knowledge and information, in the same way Vassalo does now to help grow the Nova Scotia wine industry. "It's co-operative, not competitive. And that's how you succeed in life."

Claudia De Fuentes has seen firsthand the connection and collaboration that's taken root in the Nova Scotia wine industry.

The Saint Mary's Faculty of Management associate professor studies the correlation between knowledge sharing and success.

She presented a paper in 2012 at the Canadian Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship conference in Halifax, looking at the formal and informal networks curling their way around Nova Scotia's vineyards.

De Fuentes chuckles telling the story of interviewing one winemaker for her research and seeing the same winemaker again at her next interview. He was driving by to confirm a dinner date with the second winemaker. They had already arranged childcare so everybody could make it.

Dinner parties are a hint of the underlying networks that allow this industry—whose 2015 sales reached $15.4 million—to flourish. De Fuentes says those informal connections help build trust, which allows formal industry and business networks to function better.

"Of course, they have their secrets," she says, "but they are very open."

While an inclination toward total competitive secrecy seems common—if not downright necessary—in business, the Nova Scotia winemakers De Fuentes has studied abide largely by a different understanding: sharing correlates with success. And based on her research, that goes both for businesses sending out information and for those on the receiving end; equally for technical know-how and market smarts.

"The most important thing is to be connected."

The result? "If wines from Nova Scotia are widely recognized," De Fuentes says, "they are just going to get more customers."

De Fuentes is familiar with similar knowledge networks at play in more traditional and heavier-hitting wine regions in Chile, South Africa, and Italy. When she moved to Halifax in 2011 to join the Sobey School of Business, she discovered Nova Scotia's small but mushrooming industry.

Today, there are close to 20 wineries in Nova Scotia, most clustered in the Annapolis Valley. In May, the province announced a $3.5 million investment to grow the industry and its national and international reach. Another $8 million will follow over four years.

"Whenever I go to the NSLC, I try to buy at least one Nova Scotia wine," De Fuentes says. "And most of them are good."

Indeed. It seems that knowledge sharing among wineries is bearing fruit as our province's wines—once passed off (let's face it) as weak and unworthy—routinely sell out and win awards beyond provincial and national borders.

In July, Avondale Sky garnered one of three Lieutenant Governor's Awards for Excellence in Nova Scotia Wines, along with Lightfoot & Wolfville Vineyards, and Gaspereau Vineyards (owned by another Saint Mary's MBA graduate, Carl Sparkes). In the Tasters Guild International Wine 2016 judging, Avondale Sky was awarded six silver and two gold medals.

"If wines from Nova Scotia are widely recognized, they are just going to get more customers."

It is perhaps no shock that De Fuentes's research found that the winery that shares its market know-how and technical knowledge with the greatest number of other wineries is … you guessed it … Avondale Sky.

Vassalo almost shrugs off her company's evident aptitude for sharing. For her, elevating the entire industry through collaboration is nothing more than a rising-tides-lifts-all-boats move.

"If there's only one great winery in Nova Scotia," she says, "then the Nova Scotia wine industry is not so great."

Luckily that's not the case.

The rubber really hits the road with all this networking when it comes to Tidal Bay, Nova Scotia's first geographically defined and juried wine. Just like Scotland has Scotch and France, Champagne, Nova Scotia now has Tidal Bay, an aromatic light white wine that pairs well with seafood. "It goes with what it grows with," Vassalo rhymes.

A wine can only be called Tidal Bay if it's grown with Nova Scotia grapes of certain varieties and meets an extensive set of standards. Each winery's Tidal Bay tastes a little different than its neighbours'. And each one must pass the test of a tasting panel. Failing doesn't mean the wine is no good; it simply doesn't meet the tight criteria necessary to be called Tidal Bay.

Creating the standard for the Tidal Bay was no small effort. To lead it, the Winery Association of Nova Scotia brought in top-tier Canadian winemaking consultant, Peter Gamble.

"He showed us what we could do best," Vassalo says. (She should know: it was Avondale Sky's 2015 Tidal Bay that won that Lieutenant Governor's Award in a blind tasting.) But the real key was having Nova Scotia winemakers come together and agree on what this wine should smell, taste, and feel like.

"It's a really good example of sharing knowledge, reaching consensus, and sharing best practices," De Fuentes says. "They were able to discuss and come to agreement on the aspects of one product."

Vassalo remembers a family dinner when she was a child. She was taking little sips of one of her uncle's wines.

"It would taste one way, and then I would reach over and have another sip 15 minutes later and the wine tasted different. It evolved in the glass." She was hooked.

"Wine has been a passion of mine for closing in on 50 years."

This love saw her bike and sip her way through Europe's wine regions, but it wasn't until she closed the door on her civil service career that Vassalo seriously considered an involvement in the wine industry herself.

Owning a winery is no flight of fancy or simple money-making scheme—the industry is subject to the testy temperaments of weather, sometimes oppressive regulation, and up to a decade between investment and return.

"We could have bought a really big boat and gone to the Caribbean," Vassalo says. "And there is nothing wrong with that. But, we wanted to give back to Nova Scotia."

Instead of the Caribbean boat dream, they floated a barge with an about-to-be-demolished church down the Minas Basin and along the Avon River. This refurbished church—now their main winery building—served as the launching pad for Avondale Sky.

And since then, Vassalo has fulfilled her wish to give back.

She and Creaser have hired locally, giving people a chance to stay in the province, close to their families. They've given young Nova Scotians an opportunity to gain work experience and complete co-ops. And they've also helped to grow an established and uniquely Nova Scotian industry by sharing riddling racks and mechanical leaf pullers, by trading knowledge, and even by looking after each others' kids.

"You work with other people. You don't see other people as competition. Even if the same business is next door. If we had three other wineries next door, we would be thrilled," Vassalo says. "It's community." ✧

BY TIM DAMON

THE PADDLING HUSKY

Sprint Canoer Mark James.

Mark James, a sprint canoer who graduated in 2015 with an undergraduate degree in commerce, knows a thing or two about getting his feet wet. After being introduced to canoeing at the age of four, James now has his sights set on competing in the canoe sprint at the 2020 Summer Olympics.

"Canoeing is an emotional experience that I think every Canadian should feel," he says. "The act of creating speed by connecting your body with the boat and the water is incredible and serene."

The 25-year-old Saint Mary's grad is the youngest of three kids who grew up in Dartmouth, near Lake Banook. Canoeing as a family was his parents' solution to keeping everyone in one place for the summer. James' passion for the sport escalated in his teenage years when he began to pursue competitive racing.

Upon completing high school, James decided that he wanted to study commerce and chose Saint Mary's University.

"SMU gave me a sense of community and a feeling of pride," he says. "I often heard that students are just numbers in university, but I never once encountered that at Saint Mary's. Even in my advanced courses, I was surprised to find how much the faculty cared about other aspects of my life."

One faculty member who stands out is Granville Ansong who taught Financial Accounting Theory. "He set the bar high and was a tough professor; creating an environment where we really needed to earn the marks he gave us. I learned about hard and diligent work from him and how applying ourselves in this way would make us better professionals."

Fast forward to present day and James has perfected the art of hard and diligent work.

As a member of the Canadian National Team since 2005, he trains 4-6 hours a day, six days a week, for the entire year, except 2-3 weeks off at the end of the competitive season. Add to that, his work toward his Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation through CPA Atlantic, and you can see why there are moments when he struggles with the sheer amount of effort and determination required to achieve his goals.

"I remind myself that no matter what anyone is working toward, we all have days that seem overwhelming." This positive mindset, in addition to the support of his family and his girlfriend—also a sprint canoer—help him persevere.

Watching the Canadian athletes at the Rio Olympics this past summer gave him a taste of what is to come. "I am learning that it must be difficult to be on that stage with the whole world watching, hoping to have all your passion and hard work culminate in one performance." He aspires to be the same kind of role model that the 2016 athletes have been for him, and to follow in their footsteps at the next Olympic Games.

James' biggest takeaway from attending Saint Mary's was a realization that he wants to use his skills and experiences to help those around him. He's done this by joining the board of directors at his canoe club and in the future, hopes to take on the treasurer role and put his degree to work for the club. He also hopes to give back to his sporting community through part-time work as a coach or by utilizing his accounting skills to assist non-profit sports organizations with their finances.

"My time at SMU gave me the opportunity to hone my goal setting and time management skills and apply this work ethic to my sport," he says. "SMU also helped me to become a better-rounded athlete with unique interests and priorities that help me keep perspective while pursuing my Olympic dream." ✧

CAREER DEFYING

GIS EXPERT KEBBA TOURAY BA'00 GIVES BACK TO HIS NATIVE WEST AFRICA

BY JORDAN WHITEHOUSE

Kebba Touray working on polio eradication in Nigeria.

Whether through luck or sheer determination, Kebba Touray has always found a way to defy expectations. Growing up in a small village in the Central River Region of The Gambia, for instance, where few children could get a formal education in the early 1980s, Touray was the lucky one; out of five siblings, his stepdad chose him to go to primary school.

Even after excelling in primary and high school, he remembers thinking his education was over. "I had fears that I may not have had the opportunity to go to university," he says over the phone from Nigeria, where he's now a geographic information systems (GIS) expert. "At that time, you had to either have a scholarship to travel out of the country to secure university education or be able to pay as a private student." He didn't have a scholarship or the money.

But luck struck again, this time in the form of the Saint Mary's University Extension Program (UEP), a now-defunct partnership between The Gambia Government, the Nova Scotia Gambia Association, and Saint Mary's University. Professors from SMU would travel to The Gambia to deliver the lectures and course materials that students needed to graduate with degrees.

It was the first university in the country, so entrance through scholarship—Touray's route—was highly competitive. You guessed it, though: he snubbed expectations and won a scholarship, choosing a four-year degree in geography at UEP. "I got into Saint Mary's and chose geography," he says, "in order to build a career in an area that I could use to benefit my people." And benefit them, he did.

After graduating with that bachelor's degree in 2000, he worked as a field assistant and then a field supervisor with the Medical Research Council Unit The Gambia (MRC), where he researched ways to increase the detection of tuberculosis in West Africa and how to improve patients' adherence to treatment.

While there, he also saw there was a need for a GIS specialist at the MRC, and so, thinking he could fill that gap, he travelled to Kingston University London, UK, where he eventually earned an MSc (with Commendation) in Applied GIS in 2005.

But again, after graduating and deciding to return to the MRC, there were expectations—this time from friends and family who thought he should stay in the UK. He didn't listen. "I was determined to come back because it is our responsibility as people coming from the villages to go back and help."

He believed that the knowledge he picked up in the UEP and in London would be more useful to the country he grew up in than the one he adopted for a few years. "We had very little experience in GIS at the time," he says of The Gambia. "But going community to community, house to house, I saw how you can use geography to identify the spatial distribution of some of these public health diseases. Then you can tell the government where to locate health facilities, for example."

Touray continued to use his education to help others when he became a GIS and mapping officer with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), an organization consisting of 15 West African countries promoting economic integration and peace, in 2010.

Then, in 2013, the World Health Organization came knocking. They needed a GIS expert on a short-term contract to support polio eradication efforts in Nigeria, which, at that time, accounted for more than half of all polio cases worldwide. His colleagues thought he was crazy to leave a full-time job with ECOWAS, but again he didn't listen. He knew this would be one of the most important projects he'd ever be a part of. He was right.

The GIS portion of the project was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and involved the development of a vaccination-tracking system that pinpointed which settlements in the country had received vaccinations and which had been missed. This system, coupled with other partners' efforts, led to Nigeria's removal from the polio-endemic list.

Today, the 41-year-old is back at ECOWAS working as a principal program officer, where he monitors conflict areas and provides information to policymakers on solving those conflicts.

Thankfully he hasn't had to defy any expectations recently, but he doesn't seem to care if he'll have to any time soon. "This is an area that gives me so much joy because it's the opportunity to use systems for solving real-world problems," he says. "Studying geography at Saint Mary's was a building-block that gave me this opportunity, and I am very thankful. I will never forget it." ✧

NEW ADVENTURE

SAINT MARY'S SHAPES NOT ONE CAREER BUT TWO

BY ERIN CASEY

Steven Laffoley on the steps of Halifax Grammar School.

Growing up, Steven Laffoley never saw himself as an educator—or as a writer. "I was a kid for whom education had not made its mark," he says, laughing. "I owe it all to the Halifax Grammar School and Saint Mary's." Today, Laffoley is both a distinguished chronicler of Nova Scotia history and the new Headmaster of the Halifax Grammar School.

After leaving his home outside Boston as a teenager, Laffoley got his first taste of what a meaningful education could be when he attended the Halifax Grammar School in grade 11. He went on to earn three degrees from Saint Mary's: A Bachelor of Arts in 1987, a Master of Arts in 1991, and a Bachelor of Education in 1991. He permanently relocated to Halifax in 1992.

He credits both the intimate atmosphere and extraordinary professors at SMU with inspiring him to follow his dreams. In his second year, the late Dr. Dick Twomey of the Department of History "savaged a paper of mine," Laffoley says. "There was more red ink than type. The Boston street kid came out in me," he says, describing his determination to be a better writer, no matter what it took.

And a better writer he became. Over the past thirty years, Laffoley has authored articles, essays, radio stories, seven creative non-fiction books and one novel. Halifax: In Search of History, Mystery and Murder (2007) was shortlisted for the Atlantic Independent Booksellers' Choice Award and the Evelyn Richardson Memorial Non-Fiction Award. The Devil And The Deep Blue Sea (2011) was shortlisted for the 2012 Arthur Ellis Award for Best Crime and Shadowboxing: The Rise and Fall of George Dixon (2012) won the 2013 Evelyn Richardson Nonfiction Award.

"It's not a hobby. As a writer, it's a compulsion to make sense of things," he explains. "Writing is this increasingly rare opportunity to sit still and to think." Laffoley often writes late at night, in the home he shares with his wife and teenaged daughter. This productive habit started a few years ago, when his daughter couldn't sleep without someone sitting next to her. "So I would take my laptop into her room, and while she was falling asleep I wrote Hunting Halifax, which is the best selling book I've ever written."

Laffoley's books are typically based on historical events, and he often inserts himself as a writer or detective character. He can have four or five narratives going on at once, in different time frames, a technique he is now known for. "I didn't think I was strong enough as a writer to maintain that one narrative, so I ended up creating my own style," he explains.

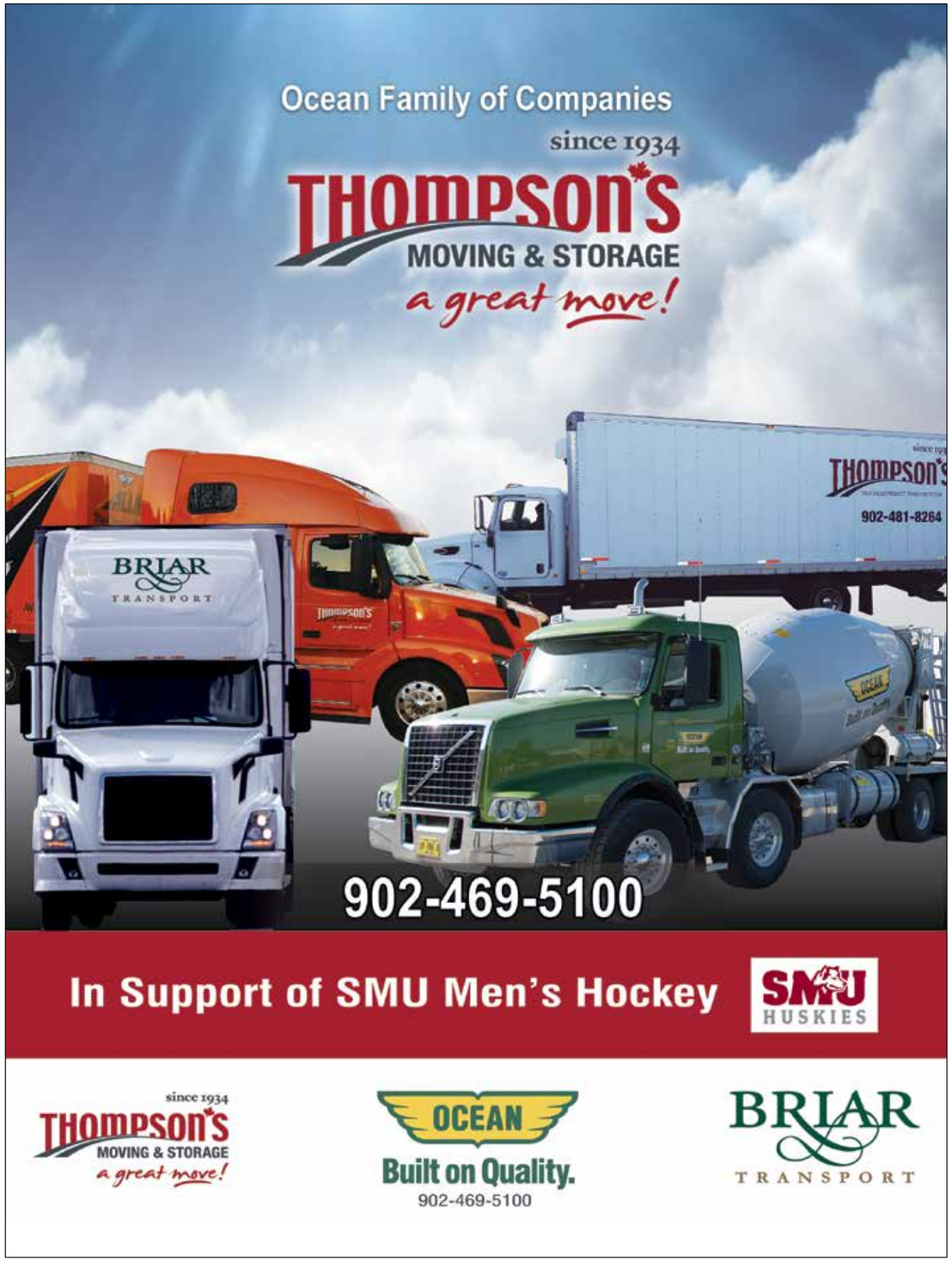
His latest book is The Halifax Poor House Fire: A Victorian Tragedy (2016). The poor house was located on the current site of the IWK, and burned down in the 1880s. It was the worst instance of fire death in the city, killing Halifax's poorest and most destitute. "I'm not just telling a story; I'm evoking a deeper appreciation for what happens when a society has a great disparity of wealth." Laffoley believes the lessons of history are very much alive for us today, if we care to learn them.

His career as an educator has run parallel to his career as an author. He has taught every grade from primary to 12, except grade three, and continues to teach grade five English. He has also lectured in the Department of History at Saint Mary's. This spring, after 21 years at Halifax Grammar, 19 of them as Head of the Middle School, he became its thirteenth Headmaster. In some schools, a headmaster can be a reserved and distant person, but that's not Laffoley. He stands out front greeting kids and their parents every morning and has plans to "bring the family back together again from the two campuses." Plans are afoot to build into the parking lot and to the north and south of the existing property, and it won't be long before the school community is reunited.

With 500 students from junior primary to grade 12, and a strong focus on the broader goals—athletics, the arts, and service—not just academics, Halifax Grammar is "quite a place," says Laffoley. "It's like SMU—it's a family school, we're all in this together, and we support each other."

It's clear that Steven Laffoley owes his love of learning to Saint Mary's. He recalls going to pick up his marks in first year, and finding they were all A's. He couldn't believe it. "I was just wide-eyed," he laughs. "You get lucky now and again. Everything I got in trouble for at school, I was rewarded for at SMU. Asking questions, challenging concepts. It says a lot about the character of the professors and the institution."

If the Grammar School showed Steven there was something inside him worth exploring, Saint Mary's helped him understand what that might look like. At both schools, he found an educational philosophy that nurtures and rewards effort and ability. "At Saint Mary's, learning was very personal, very passionate. I owe a lot to the values I learned at SMU: hard work, community, and family. It's an extraordinary university." ✧



Brian Fulton

LIFE LESSONS

TEAMWORK AND FOCUS THE SECRET FOR FORMER HOCKEY HUSKY

BY SUZANNE ROBICHEAU

More than three decades have passed since Brian Fulton BA'85 faced off as centre for the hockey Huskies. There's no ice time required in his new role as President and CEO of Mercedes-Benz Canada Inc., but he's still predicting moves, reading plays, and looking for opportunities: skills he attributes to a well-rounded education at Saint Mary's University.

"My CEO training began as much at the rink as it did in the classroom," says Fulton. "A degree in English taught me to be open-minded and adventurous – to look at change with anticipation rather than fear. Hockey inspired me to do well academically and gave me discipline. It taught me that success was only possible if you played as a team."

Hockey also gave Fulton a slew of treasured memories. "It was a special time playing for Saint Mary's," he recalls. "There was a unique sense of competition and rivalry in Atlantic Canada. In those days, at one of the big Ontario universities, there would have been 300 spectators in the arena. More than 3000 fans came out when the Huskies played in cities like Moncton and Charlottetown."

Fan loyalty remains an important part of Fulton's agenda as he travels the country visiting Canada's 57 Mercedes-Benz dealers. "We want to turn our customers into fans who fall in love with our cars and the Mercedes-Benz Brand," he says. "We want them to feel a part of our MB family."

As someone who appreciates the importance of that family dynamic, Fulton has never doubted the decision to leave his home in Ontario to attend Saint Mary's.
"Being recruited to play for the Huskies was a wonderful opportunity and a great fit," he says. "I had spent many summers visiting family in Cape Breton and Newfoundland, so I was already in love with Atlantic Canada when I arrived in Halifax in 1981."

Ocean breezes and childhood memories set the stage for a comfortable coming of age in a close-knit, campus environment. Add to that a supporting cast of caring faculty and staff.

"Saint Mary's has an incredible sense of community spirit," says Fulton. "It wasn't uncommon to see my professors show up at the Gorsebrook pub after a hockey game."

The Gorsebrook continues to hold a special place in Fulton's heart – and not only as the scene of late-night play-by-plays over frosty pints. "It's where I met my wife, Tanya," he says. "She attended Saint Mary's as well, and her father

Dr. Nathan Kling, was a professor there. We both see the University as an important part of our formative years."

In Fulton's playbook of key influences, the late Elizabeth Chard, former University registrar, also receives special attention.

"She took an interest in the entire hockey team, and a special interest in this kid from Ontario," says Fulton fondly. "She had me stop by her office on Monday mornings before my first class. I'd try to play down any bad behaviour on the weekend, and she'd pretend not to know about it, but as I left her office, she'd sometimes drop a subtle comment. Nothing got past her."

Elizabeth Chard believed in Fulton as a hockey player and as a student. The more she challenged him, the better he did—both on the ice and in the classroom.

"I had to work for my grades," he says. "They didn't come easily. On the way home from games, while many of the guys were chilling near the back of the bus, I would often hang up front to try to stay on top of my assignments."

The hard work paid off only a few days after graduation with a job offer from Ford Motor Credit. "Having a Bachelor of Arts degree opened the door to an interview," he says. A subsequent stint at Toyota Motor Credit prepared Fulton for a position as Assistant Regional Manager for Mercedes-Benz Financial Services Canada in 1994. Since then, he has been a proud member of the Mercedes-Benz team, holding a variety of leadership positions, including Vice-President of Mercedes-Benz Financial Services USA and President and CEO of MBFS Canada and Mercedes-Benz Auto Finance China.

"Saint Mary's gave me the confidence and skills to get along as easily in Beijing as I do in Toronto," says Fulton. "As life lessons go, that's hard to beat." ✧

Meaghan Huculak on the scene of a break and enter. photo: Cpl. Jeffrey Jackson (LMD IFIS)

HANDS-ON TRAINING

UNIQUE PROGRAM AT SAINT MARY'S LEADS TO PRESTIGIOUS RCMP JOB

BY RENÉE HARTLEIB

While her friends were tuning into CSI, Meaghan Huculak grew up watching TLC's Cold Cases. "I've always been fascinated by forensic science and wanted to see real life stories of how science was used to solve crimes," says the Saint Mary's grad.

That desire is what led the Ajax, Ontario native to major in Forensic Science and specialize in Physical Anthropology at the University of Toronto (U of T), where she earned an Honours BSc. It didn't take her long to figure out that forensic anthropology—the study of found human skeletal remains to assist with establishing identity—was where it was at.

Working as a Forensic Anthropologist meant obtaining at least a Masters degree, and because Huculak is a bit of a homebody, she originally only applied to programs in Ontario. But fate had other plans. It was while attending an anthropological conference in Banff—part of her undergraduate curriculum at U of T—that Huculak happened to sit at the same table as Dr. Tanya Peckmann, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Coordinator of the Forensic Sciences Program at Saint Mary's.

Huculak learned that Dr. Peckmann was also a Forensic Anthropologist and consultant for the Nova Scotia Medical Examiners Service. She also found out that Peckmann's graduate students were working on active files. This compelled Huculak to apply. "I knew that the most important thing I could do for myself was to get hands-on experience in forensic anthropology," she says. "Being able to go out into the field and apply what you read in textbooks at the Masters level is a phenomenal opportunity." So phenomenal, in fact, that Huculak made the difficult decision to move away from home.

She wasn't disappointed. "In terms of academics, the choice to go to Saint Mary's was the best choice I made in my academic career." The two-year program included a co-op experience working as a Forensic Anthropology Technician with the Nova Scotia Medical Examiners Service.

Certified Fingerprint Examiner Meaghan Huculak. photo: Cpl. Jeffrey Jackson (LMD IFIS)

Whenever skeletonized human remains were found in the province, Huculak was on the scene working to fully document and recover the remains. She was then able to assist with determining the biological profile (age, sex, ancestry, stature, etc.) to help with the identification of the individual. "To actually be able to work with the police, and feel like you are helping provide closure for family members and friends who have lost loved ones is extremely rewarding."

Huculak has gone on to have a career doing just that. For the last five years, she has worked as a Forensic Identification Assistant for the Integrated Forensic Identification Service of the RCMP in Maple Ridge, British Columbia. On a daily basis, she dusts for fingerprints, conducts comparisons of footwear impressions, and collects DNA for submission to the laboratory.

In addition, as a member of the Forensic Search and Evidence Recovery Team (FSERT), she works as a Forensic Anthropologist, helping to fully document and recover human remains found in the province of BC.

This past summer, she added a new certification that makes her work even more valuable. Huculak is the first civilian member of the RCMP to be certified as a Fingerprint Examiner. She can now be called as an expert witness in court cases.

As you can imagine, people are pretty fascinated by what she does for a living. Huculak, who loves teaching, often goes out to schools and fields lots of questions that have the words "morbid" or "gross" in them. "There are things you see that are disturbing for sure, but I have a deep interest in skeletal remains and a passion for helping people find closure."

Turns out leaving home was a good move for Huculak who met her fiancé—a homicide detective—through her work in Maple Ridge. Together, they have just bought a house and are looking forward to having family come and visit them in BC.

But Nova Scotia continues to hold a special place in Huculak's heart, too. Since graduating from Saint Mary's in 2010, she has returned a number of times to give back to Dr. Peckmann's current students. Drawing on both her education and extensive experience, Huculak created a forensic archaeology field-school course that teaches students how to fully document and recover human remains that are found in a clandestine burial setting.

She likes to share the good news with students that, although jobs in forensic science—and specifically forensic anthropology—are rare in Canada, they are attainable. "I absolutely love my work. To have a career in this field, and be able to say I've made it, is wonderful." ✧

A LEGACY OF DISCOVERY

New scholarship pays tribute to Harry Freeman Roberts (1934 to 2016)

Harry Roberts, circa 1960 at the Nova Scotia Museum of Science on Spring Garden Road.

BY SUZANNE ROBICHEAU

Harry Roberts wasn't surprised at Yarmouth County's designation as an internationally-recognized Starlight Reserve. As a young boy, Harry would climb to the top of a hill near his home in Argyle, Nova Scotia and scan the heavens with his homemade telescope. Thanks to a generous bequest in Harry's will, a new scholarship at Saint Mary's will inspire other naturalists of the night sky.

"My father was always drawn to the cosmos," says Harry's son, Chris, who studied Engineering at Saint Mary's. "He came from a family of modest means, so he couldn't afford to attend university, but he did take some astronomy classes at Saint Mary's from Father Burke-Gaffney, the astronomy professor for whom the University's observatory was named."

Harry's passion for astronomy paid off with a job as the first planetarium operator and lecturer at the Nova Scotia Museum of Science in the Technical College Building on Spring Garden Road. A broad range of talents saw him succeed in a variety of vocations, beginning after high school graduation, with a job offer from the new Atlantic Regional Labs of the National Research Council in Halifax. From there, Harry moved to the CBC, first as a cameraman for popular programs, such as Don Messer's Jubilee, and later as the executive producer of educational TV programs.

"That's where he met my mother, Inez Palmer," says Chris. "When she passed away in 2011, they had been married for 52 years."

Following his time with the CBC, Harry worked for the Nova Scotia Commission on Drug Dependency before forming his own video production company. He had many outside interests, including photography, electronics, and railways—both real and model—but astronomy always held a special place in his heart. He even served for a time as secretary for the Halifax Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

Harry's will made provisions for many of the charitable organizations he and Inez had supported together, with the largest bequest to establish a scholarship for promising astrophysics majors at Saint Mary's. A legacy of discovery, this gift will benefit students, researchers, and faculty members for generations to come.

"I think a seed was planted when my father took courses from Father Burke-Gaffney," says Chris. "Astronomy was such an important part of my dad's life that he wanted to provide opportunities for those who share his passion."

For Dr. Marcin Sawicki, Chair of Saint Mary's Astrophysics Department, this new scholarship is a welcome and wonderful way to support some very deserving students. "The Harry F. Roberts Scholarship will help young Nova Scotian astrophysicists pursue their study of the universe around us," says Dr. Sawicki. "Harry's life-long passion for astronomy lives on through his very generous bequest." ✧

PAYING TRIBUTE

In Memory of Graham Leo Downey, Sr. (1939 to 2015)

Chris Downey, Mishayla Gray, Ardith Downey, and Senator Wilfred Moore (BComm'64, LLD'07).

BY SUZANNE ROBICHEAU

Speaking at the funeral of his good friend wasn't an easy task for Senator Wilfred Moore, but it presented an opportunity to gather support for a lasting legacy to Graham Leo Downey, Senior, Halifax's first African Nova Scotian Councillor and Deputy Mayor.

"Service was at the heart of everything Graham did," said Senator Moore. "From coaching bantam hockey and assembling a multi-racial baseball team that went on to become Maritime Junior Champions, to 26 years on Halifax City Council and running the Arrows Night Club with his late brother, Billy, Graham was a builder in the maturing of Halifax and a powerful force for racial harmony."

With the blessing of Graham Downey's widow, Ardith, Senator Moore ended his eulogy by announcing the establishment of a bursary in Graham Downey's name for African Nova Scotian students attending Saint Mary's University.

"It was the first time I ever witnessed a standing ovation at a funeral service," he recalls.

Heartened by the response, Moore and a team of volunteers, including Graham's close friend, Michael Tynes, led a fundraising campaign that garnered the support of dozens of proud Saint Mary's alumni—including many members of Graham's and Ardith's family—as well as members of the African Nova Scotian community and other friends. By pulling together, they raised enough to establish a permanent endowment that will annually provide a $1,000 award.

"It's a testament to the high regard in which Graham was held and the great things that can happen when donors from the greater community and loyal Santamarians get together to honour a friend," says Moore.

On a warm summer morning, almost a year after Graham Downey's passing on September 5, 2015, Ardith Downey, Ardith's and Graham's son, Chris, and Senator Moore arrived on Saint Mary's campus to meet Mishayla Gray, the first recipient of the Alderman Graham Downey Bursary.

"Thank you," said Mishayla. "This really helps me. It's such a good feeling to know that my effort is recognized, and a special honour to receive an award that pays tribute to such a remarkable man."

A competitive volleyball player who was born and raised in Halifax, Mishayla plans to take a break from athletics—at least during her first year in the Commerce Program at the Sobey School of Business. "I want to settle in before I get involved with extra-curriculars," she says. "People are counting on me to do well and school definitely comes first." ✧

Fundraising continues for the Alderman Graham Downey Bursary. You may contribute to the bursary online at www.smu.ca/downey. You may also contact the Development Office at 902-420-5496 or email development.office@smu.ca for more information about making a gift in honour of Graham Downey.

A SHARED COMMITMENT TO STUDENT SUPPORT

Norman Nahas, Joe Metlege EMBA'12, Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray, and Monica Ramia.

In a ceremony on May 11, 2016, Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray and two representatives of the Lebanese Chamber of Commerce in Nova Scotia—Norman Nahas and Joe Metlege—signed a scholarship agreement that formalizes an existing partnership between Saint Mary's University and the Lebanese Chamber.

Beginning in the 2016-17 academic year, it increases support for the Lebanese Chamber Scholarship Opportunities Program with up to four, $5,000 Lebanese Chamber Scholarships being awarded to full-time students of Lebanese descent. The total value of these awards is $20,000, with half of each scholarship funded by the Chamber and half through matching funds from the University.

"Working together, we stand to make a significant difference in the lives of youth in our region," says President Summerby-Murray. "This agreement reflects the tremendous generosity of the Lebanese Chamber of Commerce, the strength of the Chamber's existing relationship with Saint Mary's, and our shared commitment to academic excellence." ✧

Annual SMU Alumni Golf Tournament

The 40th Annual Saint Mary's University Alumni Golf Tournament took place on August 18th, 2016 at Granite Springs golf course. Thank you to all who participated and volunteered, we had a great day and awarded 20 student bursaries for the 2016/17 school year.

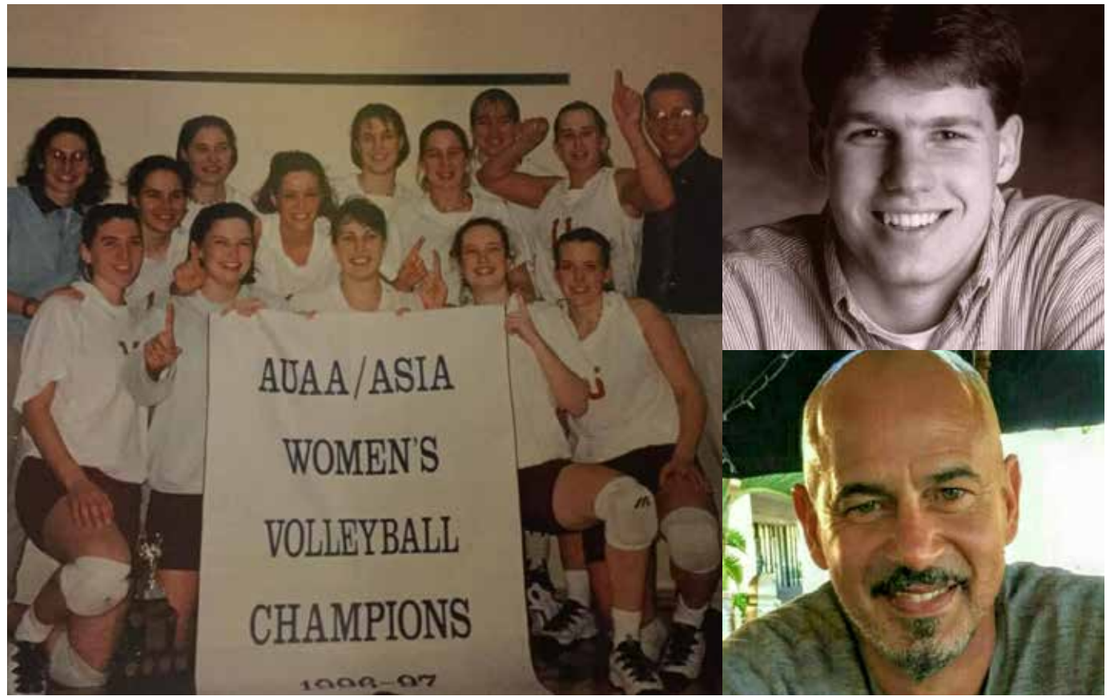
2016 bursary recipients

The winning team, Capital Paper

We are proud to partner with Granite Springs Golf Course

Thank you to our sponsors:

SPORT HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



1996-97 Saint Mary's Women's Volleyball Team, Quarterback David Sykes (top), and Coach Stephen Hart.

THE SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY SPORT HALL OF FAME ADDED AN ATHLETE, A TEAM, AND AN ATHLETE/BUILDER TO ITS RANKS THIS MONTH.

David Sykes BA'94, BComm'94, a starting quarterback in the early 90s, led the Huskies to 25 wins and only 6 losses, and helped Saint Mary's compete in both the Atlantic Bowl and the Vanier Cup. Sykes received back-to-back Russ Jackson awards for "best exemplifying the attributes of academic achievement, football skill, and citizenship." He was also the first SMU student and football player to receive a Rhodes scholarship. Sykes went on to receive an MA from Oxford, where he captained the famed school's hockey team and won an "Oxford Blue." He later earned an MSc degree from the London School of Economics.

Before 1996/1997, no Saint Mary's University Women's Volleyball Team had ever won a title. That year, led by Coach Lori Welsh Hawley, AUAA MVP, Dana Olsen, and 2nd team AUAA All-star, Nadine Sinclair, they not only claimed the title, but finished Conference play with a perfect 20 wins and no losses. It was a dream season for a remarkable group of women athletes.

Stephen Hart BA'85, originally from Trinidad and Tobago, joined Huskies soccer in 1981 and after a successful stint as AUS all-star midfielder, transitioned to coaching. Saint Mary's Women's Soccer and Soccer Nova Scotia both benefitted from his expertise, until the Canadian National Team came calling. Hart served as the interim head coach of Canada's National team and eventually earned the head coaching position. In 2009, he led Canada to one of its best international finishes, the quarter finals of the Gold Cup. Hart is currently head coach of the Trinidad and Tobago Men's National Team. ✧

EVENTS

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

MBA 40th Celebration
We had a lovely evening with Sobey School of Business MBA Alumni, celebrating 40 years of the MBA program at Saint Mary's. The MBA program was revised for the 2016 academic year, so it was a great opportunity for alumni to hear about the changes.

Young Alumni Hosted Grad Boat Cruise
We welcomed more than 800 new graduates to our Alumni Family at our spring convocations. Some of these new alumni and their families joined us for a sailing cruise of the Halifax Harbour in May.

Family Alumni Luncheon
During Convocation in May, a luncheon was hosted on campus for graduates and their families. Over 150 people attended!

Alumni Honour Guard
We had a great showing of Alumni for our Honour Guard this year. We marched in the academic precession in front of the graduates, as a way to welcome them into our Alumni family.

Pictou County Alumni at Crombie House
Chancellor Paul Sobey and Marsha Sobey BEd'82 hosted a Pictou County alumni gathering, and all enjoyed the art collection at Crombie House. (Pictured: Chancellor Paul D. Sobey DComm'11; Ossama Nasrallah, Vice President of Student Affairs at SMUSA; and David Sobey DComm'91.)

Calgary Alumni Event & Atlantic University Pub Night in Ottawa
In June, we hosted Alumni Receptions in both Calgary and Ottawa. The Ottawa event was an Atlantic University Pub Night and a great opportunity for SMU alumni to meet other alumni from Atlantic Canada institutions.

29th Annual Husky Howl
The 29th annual Husky Howl was held by some of our Alumni in Ottawa.

SMUYA Mixer at Garrison Brewery
Our SMUYA Mixer Summer Edition was a great success again this year.

Staff & Faculty BBQ
The sun was shining as we enjoyed a lovely BBQ at the Oaks with SMU staff and faculty.

Halifax Jazz Festival VIP tent
We sold out our VIP tent at the Jazz Festival, again this year. We had a great crowd of alumni with us in the tent and enjoyed the music of City in Colour and Basia Bulat.

Boston Alumni Reception
We haven't had an alumni reception in the Boston area for a few years and were very excited to be back in the area. It was a great night catching up with our alumni, some who had driven hours to attend.

SMUYA Golf Tournament
SMU Young Alumni hosted a golf tournament this August also, with both the experienced golfer and the first-timer in mind.

40th Annual Golf Tournament
Granite Springs Golf Course, near Peggy's Cove, hosted our annual golf tournament this August, and it was a big one. Forty years! Again this year, it was sold out, with twenty happy students receiving bursaries.

Halifax Pride Parade
Not only did we all have a great time, but our float won the "most spirit" award!

CLASS NOTES

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

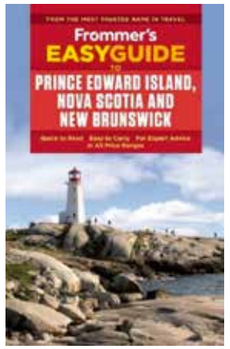
1960s

Len Canfield Dip Journalism '65, BA '66 is a Life Member of the Canadian Public Relations Society-NS. Len's long-standing commitment to CPRS was recognized recently, when fellow alumni Pat Brownlow BA '68, also a CPRS life member, presented him with the Society's 50-Year Membership Certificate. Len was in the last Saint Mary's graduating class ('65) of the former joint School of Journalism of King's, Saint Mary's, and Mount Saint Vincent Universities.

1977

Blair Beed BComm '77, author of *Titanic Victims in Halifax Graveyards*, was a special guest at the 2016 joint Nomadic and British Titanic Societies Convention in Belfast, UK. His latest book is *Mersey River Lodge - A Window on History and Nature* (with photographs by David Burns and Farhad Vladi), published by Nimbus. Blair continues to volunteer with the restoration of Saint Patrick's Parish in Halifax and is a regular history guest on Rogers Radio.

1985



Darcy Rhyno BEd '85 has another book out! Frommers *Easyguide to Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick* is widely available. Check out Amazon for this title and also his latest novel for young readers, called *Monsters of Suburbia*. For other titles, visit www.darcyrhyno.com.

1986

Jenine Arab O'Malley BSc '86 was awarded the 2015 Progress Club Women of Excellence Award - Wellness and Sport, in recognition of her valuable professional and community accomplishments.

1991

Brenda M. Hogan BComm '91 was appointed co-chair of Canadian Women in Private Equity. She is also the recipient of the 2015 Amethyst Award, which recognizes outstanding achievements by Ontario Public Servants. Brenda received the award in recognition of her work as a Senior Investment Manager with the Ontario Capital Growth Corporation for helping to transform the province's venture capital program from one reliant on tax credits to one driven by market-based returns.

Liette Doucet BEd '91 was recently elected President of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

1996

Veronica (Gorin) Walters BComm '96 completed her Juris Doctor at the University of Victoria in December 2014, and was called to the Bar of British Columbia on 1 March 2016. Veronica says that the donairs in Victoria don't match Halifax's; she has run into quite a few SMU alumni on the other coast!

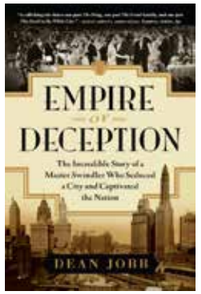
1999

Sulayman (Saul) Bah BA '99 visited Nova Scotia and Saint Mary's for a week this past June and had a chance to catch up with past professors. Saul was a member of the first graduating class of the Saint Mary's University Extension Program (UEP) in The Gambia in 1999. As one of the UEP's most outstanding students, Saul graduated with a major in Mathematics and was awarded the Ken Dunn Memorial Award as the top Math student among the graduates. Dr. Art Finbow was one of his teachers. Saul worked for a number of years with the Gambia Ports Authority and is currently teaching in the engineering program of Saskatchewan Institute of Technology in Saskatoon.

2005

Kitrina Godding BSc '05 embarked on a unique adventure with the Sedna Epic Expedition in Iqaluit this past summer. The Katujjiqatigii expedition, led by one of Canada's top explorers, Susan R. Eaton, united a team of volunteer female ocean explorers with the local Inuit community for ocean research. One of 12 female ocean explorers from North America, and the only Maritimer on the trip, Kitrina brought her background in Geology, Geography, Marine Geomatics, and youth engagement to the team.

2008



Dean Jobb's MA '08 latest book—*Empire of Deception: From Chicago to Nova Scotia – The Incredible Story of a Master Swindler Who Seduced a City and Captivated the Nation* (HarperCollins Canada) — has won the Chicago Writers Association and Crime Writers of Canada awards for nonfiction. Dean is a professor in the MFA in Creative Nonfiction program at the University of King's College in Halifax.

2010

Kimberley Dares BA '10, along with partner, Jason MacDonald BSc '10, have opened The Trainyard General Store, a hybrid retail and creative workshop space in Downtown Dartmouth. The Store specializes in goods, gifts, and furniture, all made in Nova Scotia. There are also rental workspaces for in-store creating and workshops. "We're passionate about awesome handmade goods and the people who make and love them. If you're in the area, stop by and say hello!," says Dares.

2013

Christopher Guinan MBA '13 recently joined CIBC Wood Gundy and is working as an Investment Advisor out of Truro, Nova Scotia. This follows five years in Ottawa working with the Federal Government. Christopher joins an experienced team of wealth management professionals, specializing in helping clients develop unique plans to achieve their financial objectives.

2014

Ryan Brimicombe BComm '14 is the Customer Success Manager at PostBeyond in Toronto. A three-year-old software startup, PostBeyond offers an employee engagement, employee advocacy, content marketing, content sharing, social media integration, and communications platform. In his new role, Ryan will help large brands create engaging content and then link that content to their employee's social networks, encouraging sharing and driving traffic back to the brand.

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

In Memoriam

D. Robert Annand BComm'90
April 6, 2016

John Archer DipEGN'67, BSc'68
June 5, 2016

Darren Bentley BComm'92
June 9, 2016

Gerald Boylan 1942
June 23, 2016

Ann Marie Brackett BA'89, BEd'90
July 29, 2016

Cynthia Bryant BA'00
April 6, 2016

Daniel Canfield BComm'87
June 2, 2016

Donald Clarke BA'66
June 16, 2016

Jessica Dares BA'05
August 29, 2016

Reginald D'Entremont BSc'64
April 20, 2016

Reverend Vernon Driscoll BA'57
April 9, 2016

Roger Flinn BA'66
March 31, 2016

John Forrestall BA'10
May 10, 2016

Darlene Forsyth MEd'96
May 24, 2016

Jennifer Fox BA'04, CertHRM'04
July 2, 2016

Roger Gaudet BComm'69
June 6, 2016

Neville Gilfoy DOCL'10
July 19, 2016

Bernanrd Goulet BComm'73
July 18, 2016

Jacqueline Guyette BA'67, BEd'68, MEd'77
June 7, 2016

William Hanrahan BComm'51
July 15, 2016

Doreen Harriot BA'77, BEd'81
June 16, 2016

Gordon Hayes BA'56
August 14, 2016

Archbishop James Hayes BA'43, DOLETS'85
August 2, 2016

Winston Hendsbee BA'70, BEd'72
May 25, 2016

Gregory Johnson BA'98
June 20, 2016

David Jones MA'09
August 21, 2016

David Lyons BComm'70
August 26, 2016

Allison MacLeod BComm'76
July 12, 2016

Kathleen Morrison BA'02, CertHRM'03
June 10, 2016

Cyril Oickle BComm'85
May 30, 2016

Carl Perry BEd'61
July 26, 2016

Christopher Reinhardt BComm'89
May 24, 2016

Peter Rock BCom'72
July 13, 2016

Jane Stephen BA'98
August 11, 2016

Jean-Michel Sylvain BComm'02
May 21, 2016

Guy Trudeau DipEGN'42, BSc'43
April 26, 2016

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ALUMNI LOYALTY PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

THE LORD NELSON HOTEL AND SUITES

An iconic landmark of downtown Halifax, The Lord Nelson Hotel & Suites invites visitors from around the world to experience its history. Located across from the Public Gardens at the corner of Spring Garden Road and South Park Street, the hotel is downtown, but a close walk to the SMU campus!

The hotel's guestrooms are currently being remodelled to enhance guest experience and will be completed in Spring 2017. The Lord Nelson offers more than a place to rest your head with a beautiful lobby, classic pub, elegant ballrooms, and extraordinary guest service.

The Lord Nelson is proud to be an independent, Nova Scotia-owned hotel that employs many Saint Mary's alumni, including CEO Mani Suissa DipEng'87; HR Manager Patrick Williams BComm'14, CertHRM'14; Catering Manager Laura Downie BA'86; Front Office Supervisor Kathryn Buttle BComm'14; Reservations Agent Siobhan MacDougall BA'04, CertHRM'11; and Bellman Cameo Nicholas BComm'15, CertHRM'15.

The hotel offers university rates to Saint Mary's guests year round, but did you know they offer an additional alumni discount exclusive to Saint Mary's grads? Mention your Alumni Loyalty Card to receive an additional 10% off the university rate. Book online at www.lordnelsonhotel.ca or by phone: 1-800-565-2020.

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