

2016
**Report to
Community**

Celebrating
30 Years
1986-2016




ST MARY'S
UNIVERSITY

Our Vision

St. Mary's University will be a leader in post-secondary education, open to all, and focused on developing the whole person: mind, body and spirit. Founded on the Catholic intellectual tradition, St. Mary's will prepare its students to live with integrity, compassion and confidence.

Our Mission

St. Mary's is an innovative teaching and research university that provides affordable, accredited and highly valued degrees in the Liberal Arts, Sciences and Education. Through the pursuit of knowledge and service to the community, we prepare our students to become lifelong learners, engaged citizens and compassionate members of society.



The University's motto at the bottom of the Coat of Arms, IN LUMINE TUO VIDEBIMUS LUMEN, is a Latin phrase from Psalm 36 meaning IN YOUR LIGHT WE SHALL SEE LIGHT.



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Lead. Inspire. Collaborate.



President's welcome



Welcome to St. Mary's University and our 2016 Report to Community. As we begin our 30th anniversary year, St. Mary's honours our history and our remarkable journey from a mere idea to the university we are today.

Many things have changed over time. In the pages of this report you will find a brief history of the

land and buildings at the heart of our campus and the people and events that have brought St. Mary's to this place. You will learn about exciting recent initiatives, developments, and successes that will form part of St. Mary's on-going history.

Many things have stayed the same. St. Mary's remains grounded in the 2,000-year-old Catholic intellectual tradition that celebrates academic freedom and inquiry, diversity of programs and approaches, and breadth and depth of understanding and knowledge. Our commitment to academic excellence, student success, ethics and social justice, is as strong today as it was when we were founded in 1986. Today, St. Mary's is one of the fastest-growing post-secondary institutions in Alberta. St. Mary's offers the best of a Liberal Arts and Sciences education, offering three- and four-year degrees with courses in over 30 different academic disciplines. In addition, our two-year Bachelor of Education degree is second to none, with an outstanding

placement rate for our teachers. And our university culture and student experience are remarkable and inspiring. At our June 10, 2016 Convocation, St. Mary's celebrated the largest graduating class in our history when 162 students — including the first graduates from our four-year Bachelor of Science in Biology program — received their parchments. The Rose Family Memorial Mace was presented for the first time at this ceremony and will take its place, along with our Coat of Arms, as enduring symbols of the university's commitment to educational excellence.

As you will read in this report, the future is bright for St. Mary's. Our thriving university was built with the support of caring and committed donors. Our family of supporters is a valued and vital part of the story of St. Mary's. This spirit of giving and generosity has helped in so many ways to make St. Mary's what it is today.

Over the next year there will be many special events to celebrate our 30th anniversary. I hope you will join us on this exciting journey.

Gerry Turcotte, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor

Lead. Inspire. Collaborate.

Board Chair's message

As St. Mary's University celebrates 30 remarkable years, I am pleased to announce the re-appointment of Dr. Gerry Turcotte as President and Vice-Chancellor for a second five-year term beginning July 1, 2016. Since 2011, Dr. Turcotte's principled leadership, strategic thinking and pursuit of excellence have been key to the unprecedented growth and success of our university. Today we are among the fastest growing of Alberta's 26 post-secondary institutions with an increase of over 40 percent in student enrolment in the past four years.

At this auspicious point in St. Mary's history, it is appropriate to look back at what has been achieved. St. Mary's has entered an exciting new era while at the same time respecting the university's history and values. Students at St. Mary's receive a broad liberal arts and sciences education and the quality of their learning experience prepares them for the future — mind, body and spirit. Three years ago, St. Mary's developed a new strategic plan that included ambitious goals for future campus capital expansion. That this plan has been put into action is evidenced today by the opening of our new Heritage Centre — a multi-purpose building that provides innovative new teaching spaces and a 120-seat theatre.

Over the last five years, St. Mary's professoriate has been renewed and increased by over 70 percent and new degree programs have been implemented to deliver on St. Mary's commitment to our students. In 2014, St. Mary's University College became St. Mary's University. We are a university that is open to all, inclusive and respectful of all students. This is particularly demonstrated by the reinvigoration of St. Mary's *Humanities 101* program (providing Calgary's most disadvantaged citizens the opportunity to study at St. Mary's free of charge) and the establishment in 2015 of the innovative First Nations, Métis and Inuit Partnership.

Perhaps St. Mary's greatest legacy will be to instill in every student a passion for making the most of their educational experience by developing a social conscience and a desire to make the world a better place through their knowledge, skills and actions.

We look forward to St. Mary's continuing leadership in the educational field as we begin our second 30 years.



Terry McCoy
Chair, Board of Governors



Lead. Inspire. Collaborate.

St. Mary's University Board of Governors

Most Reverend Frederick Henry	Chancellor
Mr. James T. (Terry) McCoy	Chair & Treasurer
Mr. Don Verdonck	Vice-Chair
Reverend Bill Stephenson	Chancellor's Designate
Dr. Gerry Turcotte	President & Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Mary Ann McLean	Faculty Representative
Mr. Darcy Smereka	Administrative Staff Representative
Mr. Justin Quinton	Student Representative
Mr. Michael D. Rooney	Alumni Representative
Reverend Glen Johnson	Ecumenical Representative
Vacant	Community Advisory Council Representative

Mr. Stephen Buffalo	Member-at-Large
Ms. Mary Comeau	Member-at-Large
Mr. Larry Day	Member-at-Large
Dr. Michelle Gagnon	Member-at-Large
Mr. Roberto Geremia	Member-at-Large
Mr. Denis Herard	Member-at-Large
Ms. Rosanne Hill Blaisdell	Member-at-Large
Mr. John J. Marshall, Q.C.	Member-at-Large
Ms. Georgine Ulmer	Member-at-Large
Mr. Paul Valentine	Member-at-Large



Front Row: (left to right) Larry Day, Michael Rooney, Don Verdonck, Gerry Turcotte, Darcy Smereka
Back Row: (left to right) Justin Quinton, Denis Herard, Rosanne Hill Blaisdell, Stephen Buffalo, Georgine Ulmer, Reverend Glen Johnson, Roberto Geremia, Michelle Gagnon, Mary Ann McLean

Lead. Inspire. Collaborate.

Leadership update

St. Mary's is proud to have four exceptional Vice-Presidents, who — in their leadership portfolios of Academics, Student Services, Business and Finance, and Advancement — are dedicated to preserving both the history and vision of St. Mary's and ensuring our university continues to advance the values that represent the highest educational experience at St. Mary's University.

St. Mary's students are at the heart of all we do. The quality of each student's education and experience are foremost in the minds of St. Mary's President, Vice-Presidents and Board of Governors as we make decisions that will impact the future of our institution.

In our portfolios as Vice-Presidents, we each play a unique role in stewarding and supporting the ongoing growth and development of St. Mary's. We are also united in our commitment to support the plans and actions that will advance us successfully — staying true to our mission and vision while also looking to the future.

We value and support the many initiatives that bring campus and community together — from our website and communications materials, to opportunities for giving and volunteering, to ensuring St. Mary's shares the information and stories that profile and celebrate our exceptional university and the opportunities that are available to all to learn and grow with us.

We work together to support future students before they ever put a foot on campus with initiatives that engage high school students and support them in making the successful transition to post-secondary study. This complements the many existing services that help future and current students on their path to post-secondary success at St. Mary's.

We support our outstanding faculty to further their commitment to delivering the highest level of education to all students, and ensure our programs meet stringent requirements and operate at the highest levels of academic excellence.

Together, we ensure our campus is equipped with state-of-the-art technology and buildings in a safe environment that nurtures teaching and learning.

We welcome the community to engage in learning on campus. This includes presentations and conferences, evening and weekend courses, and open classes.

We encourage our students to be engaged citizens of the world, and believe it's important for students to have opportunities to expand their knowledge beyond the boundaries of St. Mary's campus. We also welcome external educators to work with faculty, staff and students on a range of topics — bringing their wisdom and experience to our doorstep.

From start to finish...and beyond...we are committed to creating an exceptional learning environment and educational experience for our students. The spirit of St. Mary's is reflected in our collective commitment to social justice, academic freedom and the highest levels of citizenship that prepare our students — mind, body and spirit — to be leaders who will make our world a better place.

Working together is key to the success of St. Mary's and we are proud to support this with our leadership.



Dr. Tara Hyland-Russell
Vice-President Academic and Dean



Bob Hann
Vice-President Student Services



Debra Osowy
Vice-President Business and Finance



Thérèse Takacs
Vice-President Advancement



ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES our **30th Anniversary**

The history of St. Mary's University is greater than its 30 years. It is rooted in the stories of the land and buildings that have become our campus and our shared past. It is the experiences and contributions of many over time that have shaped us and brought us to where we are today as a university, a community, a city.

This is the story of St. Mary's.

Celebrating
30 Years
1986-2016



Celebrating 30 Years

The First Decade: The Founding of St. Mary's

1980s The Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary and a group of Catholic educators and business people form a committee to propose an affiliated Catholic college at the University of Calgary for the preparation and education of teachers for Catholic schools in southern Alberta.

1985 In 1985, Father Tom Mohan, CSB, Dr. John McCarthy and Mr. William Dickie draft a charter for a Catholic college to be known as St. Mary's.

1986 On September 18, 1986, St. Mary's becomes a reality when Royal Assent is given to the St. Mary's College Act in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. This Act incorporates St. Mary's as a private college in southern Alberta.

1987–1991 Ongoing discussions regarding an affiliation between St. Mary's College and the University of Calgary continue.

1991 St. Mary's Board of Governors creates a freestanding, private, institution (rather than seeking affiliation with the University of Calgary) to complement rather than compete with the University's offerings.

1993 Dr. John Thompson is named Executive Director of St. Mary's College.

1994 With offices in the Roman Catholic Pastoral Centre, St. Mary's College begins offering three courses for credit to teachers and education students

(in collaboration with the Calgary Catholic School District) in rented space at the University of Calgary. Dr. (Sister) Barbara Rice commutes from Edmonton to teach one of these courses. Her sacrifice and commitment as a professor establishes a tradition of dedicated faculty service, which continues at St. Mary's to this day.

1994 St. Mary's College Foundation is established.

1996 Dr. David Lawless becomes the first president of St. Mary's College. At the first President's Dinner, he states that an "investment in St. Mary's is critical for our youth ... as we enter an era in which the big battles will not be for land and resources, but for ideas and clear-headed leaders."

1996 St. Mary's College Library — originally housed in St. Gregory School in southwest Calgary — holds one of the most extensive collections of Catholic library materials in southern Alberta. With over 8,000 volumes, it is registered with the National Library of Canada.

1996 In the same year, St. Mary's College completes an affiliation agreement with St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.



How St. Mary's has been achieved is a beautiful story of courage, hard work, and commitment on the part of many people.

Yolande Gagnon



Celebrating 30 Years

The Second Decade: A New Campus

1997 St. Mary's opens its doors to full-time students for the first time. Located at St. Anthony's School there are four full-time professors (Dr. Glen Chilton, Dr. Howard Hopkins, Dr. Norman Knowles and Dr. Elaine Park) and 23 students enrolled in the new liberal arts and sciences university transfer program.

1998 In the fall, St. Mary's announces plans to move the campus to the Lacombe Centre site in September 1999.

1998 Bishop Frederick Henry becomes the Roman Catholic Bishop of Calgary and Chancellor of the College, replacing Bishop Paul O'Byrne, who becomes St. Mary's Chancellor Emeritus.

1999 Dr. Terry Downey is appointed the second president of St. Mary's College.

1999 On March 30, St. Mary's breaks ground for St. Basil's Hall. Built with funds from the Basilian Fathers, this new building will house a library and computer lab facilities. Two days later, on April 1, a devastating fire destroys the historic Lacombe Home. Work continues on the new campus and St. Mary's College officially opens on time on September 1, 1999. Later this year, St. Basil's Hall also celebrates its official opening.

2000 St. Mary's now has 25 full- and part-time faculty members. It also offers adult and evening courses.

2001 The Lightning Athletics men's and women's basketball teams compete for the first time in the Alberta Colleges Athletic League (ACAL) where the women's team wins gold.

2001 In November, St. Mary's College completes an agreement with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary for the purchase of the 35-acre Lacombe site.

2002 St. Mary's College applies to the Private Colleges Accreditation Board, Ministry of Learning and Province of Alberta to offer its first Bachelor of Arts degree.



Celebrating 30 Years

2003 St. Mary's applies for authorization to grant a three-year BA with a concentration in English and a four-year BA with a major in English.

2004 Lightning Athletics brings home ACAL gold in men's volleyball, men's and women's basketball and futsal, and bronze in hockey.

2004 The St. Mary's College Act is amended and St Mary's becomes St. Mary's University College. It is authorized to grant three-year BAs with concentrations in General Studies and English, and a four-year BA with a major in English.

2004 Three students graduate at St. Mary's first Convocation.

2005 For the first time in St. Mary's history, over 500 students are enrolled.

2006 Midlands United Church is purchased and renovated.

2007 Work on the laundry and power plant buildings is completed with a generous donation from Ron and Tara Mathison and with a grant from the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation. The buildings are renamed The Le Fort Centre in honour of Monsignor Joseph Le Fort.

2007 Lightning Athletics bring home gold in men's and women's basketball and women's futsal.

2007 Three-year Bachelor of Arts degrees with concentrations in History and Psychology are introduced.



2008 A two-year after-degree Bachelor of Education (Elementary) — Canada's first education degree specifically designed to prepare teachers for Catholic schools — is launched.

2009 The Canadian premiere of *Speak Truth to Power* — a play, photography exhibition and book which herald human rights defenders from around the world — takes place.

2010 St. Mary's University College is admitted into the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU).

2010 A partnership with the Ukrainian Catholic University is signed to promote academic, research and cultural exchanges.

2010 Lightning Athletics is accepted into the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC).

2010 The Catholic Women's League endows the \$1.2 million CWL Chair for Catholic Studies. Dr. Michael Duggan is appointed the inaugural Chair.

Celebrating 30 Years

The Third Decade: Caring for the Past, Growing for the Future

- 2010** St. Mary's awards its first BEd degrees at Convocation.
- 2011** St. Mary's University College celebrates its 25th anniversary and Dr. Gerry Turcotte is appointed as the third president.
- 2011** Guests are welcomed to the first annual Ghost Tour and Birthday Celebration in September.
- 2011** The renovated Midlands United Church is renamed the Father Michael J. McGivney Hall at a dedication ceremony recognizing the contributions of the Knights of Columbus.
- 2012** St. Mary's enrolment increases by 17 percent. St. Mary's introduces a new four-year BA degree with a major in Psychology. This brings the number of degree offerings to seven.
- 2012** Through generous donations, St. Mary's acquires a rare fine-art edition of The Saint John's Bible.
- 2013** Approval is received for a four-year BA with a major in Liberal Studies.
- 2013** St. Mary's Dr. Allan Markin Recognition Dinner honours Dr. Markin's long time commitment to St. Mary's and celebrates his legacy of support — \$20 million — to the university.



2014 St. Mary's University College receives approval to become St. Mary's University.

2014 A four-year Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Biology and a four-year BA with a major in History are added.



- 2015** In March, St. Mary's launches the First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Partnership with a formal ceremony and a Buffalo Robe Transfer from Blackfoot elder Casey Eagle Speaker to Dr. Gerry Turcotte.
- 2015** Launch of the St. Mary's Elders on Campus initiative with Casey Eagle Speaker (Blackfoot elder) and Edmee Comstock (Métis elder).
- 2016** The largest graduating class in St. Mary's history — 162 students — receive their parchments at Convocation in June. The new Rose Family Memorial Mace is used for the first time at this ceremony.
- 2016** On November 3, the Heritage Centre opens.

On our 30th anniversary, we honour the past, celebrate the present, and look toward the future.

The story of St. Mary's University has only just begun — and exciting new chapters are ahead.

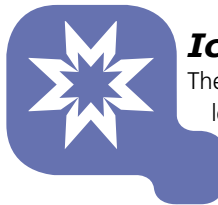
This is St. Mary's University

The liberal arts and sciences advantage

Emphasis on the liberal arts and sciences prepares graduates to be knowledgeable, nimble, adaptable and ready to make a difference in a rapidly changing world.



Our Brand



Icon

The icon is a star, based on the letter M for the Virgin Mary.

Four qualities of Mary (simplicity, clarity, purity and confidence) are

represented by the four Ms that comprise the image. The Ms frame a source of light, representing the enlightenment within each student.



Logo

The emphasis of the logo is on the name Mary. The letter T is a pedestal raising the icon's profile. The light encircled by the Ms becomes a flame, with the T as the candle. The T forms a simple cross with Mary, with the star standing in witness above.

Mascot

Zeus



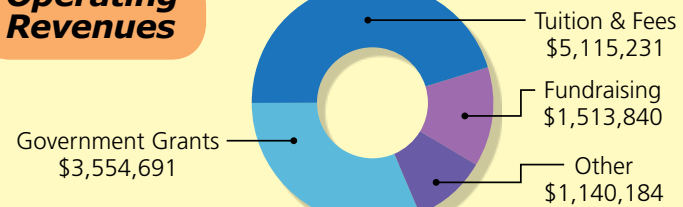
Colours



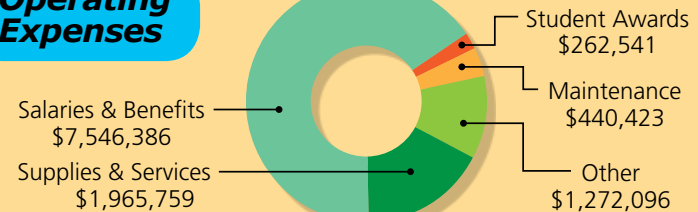
Snapshot 2015-16



Operating Revenues



Operating Expenses



Rigorous academic programs

Start at St. Mary's and succeed anywhere! St. Mary's offers high-quality, accredited undergraduate degrees valued by employers and recognized nationally and internationally for graduate-level study.

Bachelor of Arts 3 or 4 years

Degrees in English, General Studies (3-year only), History, Liberal Studies (4-year only), Psychology

Minors in Canadian Studies, Catholic Studies, Drama, English, Family Studies, Management, Philosophy, Political Studies, Psychology, Science Studies, Sociology

Bachelor of Education (Elementary) 2 years

After-degree

Bachelor of Science 4 years

Major in Biology

University Transfer up to 2 years

Business, Catholic Studies, Classics, Drama, Economics, Family Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology and more

Pre-professional

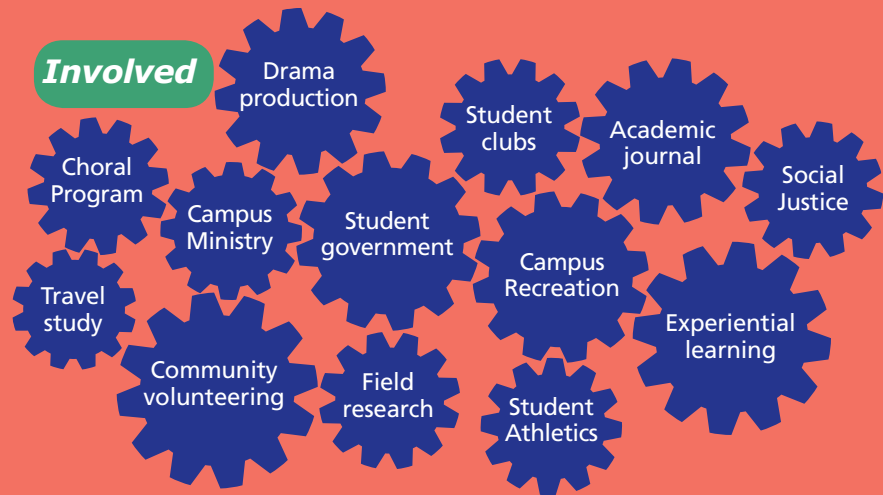
Prepare for professional programs including Law, Dentistry, Medicine, Pharmacy, Social Work, Veterinary

Graduate Certificate of Catholic Educational Leadership (GCCEL) equips teachers and administrations in religious education

Vibrant student life



50%
of students volunteer on campus or in the community



Student success



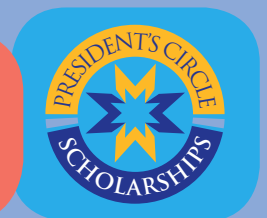
300+
students have taken part in the groundbreaking Humanities 101 program, which removes barriers to higher education



1 in 5
students are eligible to receive a student award

69%

of eligible first-year students received President's Circle Scholarships in 2015-16, based on high school achievement



Catholic. Tradition. Faith.

Our Catholic Identity

St. Mary's provides an environment for the development of the whole person intellectually, emotionally, spiritually and physically. We value the rich heritage of Catholic scholarship that forms the foundation of our university. We teach our students to be knowledgeable about the ethical and moral dimensions of their disciplines by examining faith and reason as part of the education process. We encourage our students to grow spiritually, socially and intellectually by making new friends, helping others, and participating in activities on campus.

We promote understanding of and respect for the uniqueness and dignity that defines each of us as individuals and spiritual beings — made in the image and likeness of God. We recognize that human culture is open to revelation and transcendence, and welcome students at St. Mary's to an educational experience where fruitful dialogue between the Gospel and culture is possible. We inspire our students to take responsibility for their learning and accept the greater challenge to be leaders in creating a socially just world based on sound moral principles.



Campus Ministry

St. Mary's Campus Ministry — led by Nancy Quan — embraces the vision of Christ, whose love reaches out to all people. Campus prayer services reflect the Roman Catholic traditions of our university as well as the openness of St. Mary's to ecumenical and interfaith worship. Mass, prayer services and other cross-cultural programming are available to nurture spirit and faith.

Eucharistic Celebration is held weekly in McGivney Hall. These and other special Masses bring the campus and greater community together in worship. This included St. Mary's 30th Anniversary Mass where our university received an Apostolic Blessing from Pope Francis. The Campus Chapel offers sacred space for prayer, reflection and meditation. Annual activities and events — both on and off campus — create opportunities for student engagement to raise awareness and funds for spiritual and social justice initiatives.

In the tradition of Catholic social teaching, 50 percent of students at St. Mary's volunteer on campus or in the community. Campus Ministry coordinates many of these volunteer opportunities at places such as the Father Lacombe Centre, L'Arche, Family and Schools Together, and at St. Mary's Masses.



The Very Reverend Joaquim (Jack) Pereira, Vicar General, presents the Apostolic Blessing from His Holiness Pope Francis.

Feeding the soul

Each year, the Jewish community celebrates the fall Festival of Booths by putting up Sukkahs, temporary shelters that celebrate the harvest and freedom from slavery. St. Mary's University, in partnership with Calgary's Beth Tzedek Congregation, used the Festival as an opportunity to express the vulnerability of people who are homeless — erecting a "Soupkah" on campus last fall. Non-perishable food items were collected for the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank, and *Humanities 101* students wrote a heartfelt poem that inspired students, faculty and staff to reflect on the issue. St. Mary's was honoured to have Rabbi Shaul Osadchey officially bless our "Soupkah".



Supporting Syrian refugees

Every year, Students for Social Justice (S4SJ) demonstrate the power of each person to make a difference in the lives of others. Over the past year, S4SJ joined with Canadians to assist Syrian refugees facing the daunting task of rebuilding their lives in a new country. To the delight of three families sponsored by a Calgary church, S4SJ members raised funds, provided Christmas gifts and attended Mass with the families. Students and families alike were grateful for this unparalleled experience to learn about and from each other.

Mind. Body. Spirit.

Inspiring — and inspired by — student success

Fostering students' success and preparing graduates for a lifetime of career and personal accomplishment is paramount at St. Mary's University. Every facet of learning for our 663 full-time and 175 part-time students in 2015–16 — including classroom discussions with professors and peers, theory lessons, independent and group projects, one-to-one interactions, engagement in campus life and more — offers students the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Nothing makes us prouder than seeing students realize their academic goals and, in the process, reach higher and achieve more than they perhaps thought possible. By inspiring students' success, we, in turn, are inspired by everything they accomplish.

Our commitment starts before students enrol at St. Mary's. The Transitions Committee struck in Fall 2015 is innovative and unique in Alberta, bringing counsellors and students from local high schools together with St. Mary's students

and staff several times a year to discuss what it takes to make a successful transition from high school to university. By identifying potential obstacles, we can put supports in place before students leave high school.

Our new Academic Success Seminar Series enables students to get ahead of the learning curve and get a jump on university success. Eight one-hour seminars, in areas such as research and study skills, time management and coping with stress, are offered to high school students. The inaugural Academic Writing Institute was offered in August 2015 and was an outstanding success.

St. Mary's is inspired to reach out to students in Grades 10, 11 and 12, augmenting well-established initiatives such as the annual Counsellors Update and visits by St. Mary's student ambassadors to high schools with faculty. The aim is to enable students to avoid barriers that can prevent them from completing their university studies by equipping them with tools to overcome those hurdles.



Mind. Body. Spirit.

Learning through community service

St. Mary's piloted two community service learning courses in 2015–16, one in History and one in Catholic Studies providing exciting opportunities for students who are eager to take part in this type of learning. Students took on archival projects, one with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary and the other with the Military Museums of Calgary, applying their theoretical learning in on-the-job situations. Integrated throughout the courses, this practical application of knowledge hones students' ability to be critical, rigorous and flexible thinkers who can "learn and do" at the same time.

The **world** we are **preparing students** for is **changing rapidly**. We're trying to **equip them** for a world that **doesn't exist yet**. Our **aim** is to foster **people** who are **perceptive** and **responsive** to their **environments**, and who are **deeply considerate** of the **ideas** of **others**.

Tara Hyland-Russell

Living and learning through a new and innovative partnership

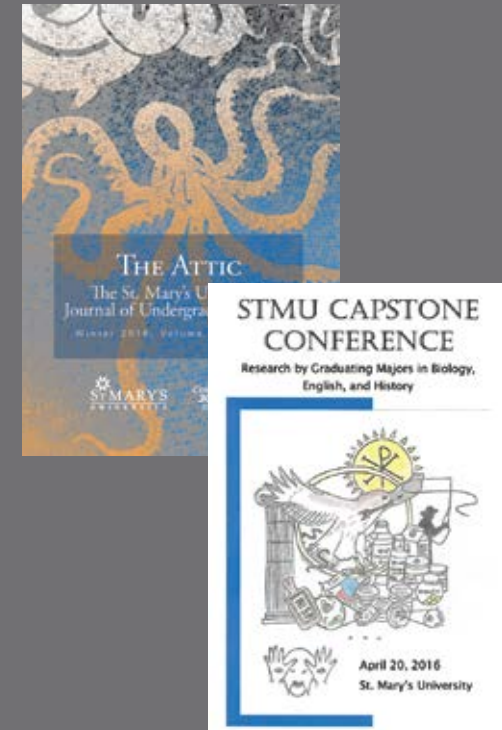
An exciting agreement between St. Mary's University and United Active Living, a seniors' housing provider that is our campus "neighbour," will give Sciences student, Bryanne Kennedy, the learning opportunity of a lifetime in 2016–17. In exchange for 30 hours of volunteer interaction with residents each month, she will receive a suite and food at no cost.

"The benefit to the student will be more than financial," affirms Bob Hann, Vice-President, Student Services, noting that the integrated experience will provide invaluable insights in a future career where a keen understanding of seniors is beneficial.



Publishing and presenting

Student learning is showcased in publications, presentations and conferences. The Winter 2016 edition of *The Attic* profiled student research papers, and at three Capstone Conferences during the year, graduating students presented significant research they had engaged in during their studies. The range of topics presented reflects the incredibly diverse interests of St. Mary's students, and also contributed to the ever-growing body of global knowledge.



Mind. Body. Spirit.

Lightning strikes on the national court

St. Mary's women's basketball squad might only be going into their fifth season in 2016–17, but no one would know it given their impressive performance last year. The team won all but two games all season, they won the province's Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) Silver Medal, and they earned their way to the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) national championships.

Coach Steve Shoults, who has been guiding the team for only two years, earned accolades from his professional peers, being named Coach of the Year in the ACAC South Division. Shooting guard Montana Romeril — the leading scorer in the country — was named to the CCAA All-Canadian team in March.

On the men's team, forward Ali Raza was named ACAC South Division Rookie of the Year for his outstanding first season. The team welcomes a new head coach, Nathan Ruff, in 2016–17.

The cross-country running team also ran away with some impressive results in 2015-16, as Chris White-Gloria earned a berth at the CCAA national finals. A new Lightning of the Year award was established by St. Mary's to recognize his outstanding academic achievement — he maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA over two years — athletic ability and community service.



2016 Athletes of the Year



Montana Romeril
History student
Guard, women's basketball



Ali Raza
Liberal Arts student
Guard, men's basketball



Learn. Research. Experience.



Program and instructional excellence

St. Mary's offers a comprehensive, liberal arts education that not only encourages students to excel academically, but also equips them with a deep connection and responsibility to the world around them. "We want our students to be citizens of the world — not as participants, but as leaders," says St. Mary's President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Gerry Turcotte.

A commitment to social justice, ethical citizenship, respect and freedom of thought — grounded in the Catholic intellectual tradition — is at the heart of a St. Mary's education. Our faculty brings learning to life for students through a diversity of knowledge, interests and experiences. They deliver dynamic classes and challenging course content in an environment that inspires real conversation and participation.

Students have opportunities to engage in faculty-led research projects for first-hand experience in pushing the boundaries of knowledge in their field of study. As teachers and researchers, our faculty make valuable contributions to their fields, the broader academic community and society. We value the extraordinary individuals who make St. Mary's their career choice and are dedicated to excellence in education for both our faculty and our students.

Advancing research

In Spring 2016, St. Mary's launched the inaugural issue of *Illuminate: Teaching and Research Newsletter*. This publication celebrates "the cutting-edge research, inspiring teaching, and important publications produced by St. Mary's faculty," says Dr. Norman Knowles, St. Mary's Professor of History and Director of Research.



Research at St. Mary's includes campus-wide activities like The Rouge Forum Conference, a two-day event hosted at St. Mary's University in May 2016. The theme, Teaching for Democracy and Justice in an Age of Inequality, brought together scholars, teachers, students and community members to discuss issues of social justice through a critical lens. One highlight was the keynote speaker, Canada's Poet Laureate George Elliott Clarke, who opened the conference with a presentation about marginalization, justice and anti-racism.

A playwright and a scholar

Eugene Stickland, one of Canada's acclaimed playwrights, has brought entertainment, excitement and enlightenment to our university as St. Mary's Writer-in-Residence for the past three years. His vast skill is evident in the witty script at the heart of the dramatic re-enactments at our annual Ghost Tour and in a celebrated first novel



The Piano Teacher — recipient of the 2016 City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Award. From an evening reading of *The Piano Teacher* — Stickland's debut novel authored while Writer-in-Residence at St. Mary's — to consultations with students about their own work, Speaker Series presentations, St. Mary's Literary Guild weekly writing workshops and work-in-progress readings, his wisdom and guidance inspires emerging writers on campus through his mentorship and example.

Learn. Research. Experience.



Exploring medieval times

Dr. Jennifer Garrison, Associate Professor of English, received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Insight Research Grant for her project *Confessing Masculinity: Gender, Penance, and Futurity in Medieval English Literature*. As part of her grant, Dr. Garrison will employ a senior undergraduate student as a research assistant, providing a St. Mary's student with valuable

research experience and the opportunity to accompany Dr. Garrison to the International Congress of Medieval Studies at the University of Western Michigan in 2018. Dr. Garrison's new book, *Challenging Communion: The Eucharist and Middle English Literature* examines literary treatments of the Eucharist, the central symbol of later medieval religious culture and the focus of increasingly dangerous political debates.



Simulations and embodied learning

Past experience has taught Dr. Cory Wright-Maley, Assistant Professor of Education, of the potential of simulations in a teaching environment. He is now at the forefront of an emergent field, with a series of recent publications that help to distinguish simulations from other related activities in his subject area, documenting effective teacher practices

with simulations — including the thorny problem of teacher control — and exploring the affective impact they can have on teachers' perceptions of the challenges facing English language learners.

Dr. Wright-Maley will use a Teaching Innovation Grant in 2017 to conduct research and develop a new course on how to teach using simulations. He will offer the class to current Bachelor of Education students as well as first-year graduates, and will observe differences (if any) between practicing and pre-service teachers when it comes to their successes and challenges in running educational simulations.

Refining understanding of Indigenous agents

The 2014 final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission exposed the dark history of Canada's church-run Residential Schools. According to Dr. Norman Knowles, Professor of History and Director of Research, one consequence of the report is a tendency to frame the relationship between First Nations and Christianity as almost entirely one of colonialism and cultural destruction, viewing Indigenous peoples simply as victims of an oppressive and assimilationist missionary agenda. Such representations overlook the important part that Indigenous persons played in the missionary encounter and the meaningful place that Christianity came to occupy in many Indigenous communities.



As a Visiting Research Fellow at Ripon College, Cuddesdon (UK) this spring, Dr. Knowles conducted research on the Indigenous teachers, catechists and clergy employed by the Church Missionary Society (CMS) in Rupert's Land between 1840 and 1900. He examined the CMS archives and concluded that the missionary encounter was not simply one of cultural imposition and erosion but part of a complex dialogic process in which both missionaries and missionized actively participated.

Dr. Knowles reported on his research to faculty and students at Ripon College, and delivered the keynote address at the annual meeting of the Fellowship of the Maple Leaf held at Lambeth Palace, London. Dr. Knowles plans to expand his work to include a comparative study of the work of the CMS among the Maori of New Zealand.

Challenging readers of a classic text

Dr. Luke Bresky, Associate Professor of English, teamed up with legendary Americanist Michael Colacurcio of UCLA to produce a new edition of *The Blithedale Romance*, which is expected to completely change the way future generations of students and researchers read the classic text. The persistence of social injustices connected specifically with race, class and gender — and the hope of amending them — ensure the contemporary relevance of this classic novel, written by Nathaniel Hawthorne in 1852. Hailed as "an exceptional scholarly achievement" and "a major piece of literary analysis," Bresky and Colacurcio's new edition highlights the novel's historical context, and includes primary texts concerning such radical causes as antislavery, women's rights and labour reform.

Learn. Research. Experience.



A historic milestone: St. Mary's CWL Chair for Catholic Studies

In 2010, the Catholic Women's League's (CWL) generous donation of \$829,688 and a matching grant of \$387,074 from the Access to the Future Fund established the first permanent endowed Chair at St. Mary's: the CWL Chair for Catholic Studies. Today, it remains the only endowed Chair at our university and holds a special place of prestige and honour. Over the past six years, it has enriched the teaching and research of Chair holder Dr. Michael Duggan, and made it possible for him to share the valuable knowledge he has acquired with learners both on and beyond St. Mary's campus.

This is just one example of the extraordinary opportunities donor support makes possible at St. Mary's. In countless ways, philanthropic gifts of every size enhance our learning environment and further our ability to acquire and share new knowledge for the benefit of our students and greater community.

Learning to be a great teacher in Ukraine

Trista Wilson didn't expect the path to her first full-time teaching position — at St. Thomas More School in September 2016 — to be via Lviv, Ukraine. It proved to be a valuable part of the journey. Wilson graduated from St. Mary's University's Bachelor of Education (Elementary) program in 2016. Last summer, she was one of 30 volunteers from around the world teaching English in Ukraine for three weeks. The experience was made possible, in part, thanks to the ongoing partnership between St. Mary's and the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU).

"It was my first trip to Europe on my own, my first experience teaching English and my first time teaching adults," Wilson explains. "It was a good lesson in teaching. I knew I needed to have a variety of ways to teach, and through this I learned how to break information down into the simplest forms, to use lots of visuals and to be patient. It was an authentic experience. I had my own class, without a principal, and could work independently — but I still had to achieve the outcome."

Over 200 students took part in UCU's English Summer School. Classes were held on two campuses in a town about 30 minutes outside Lviv, where volunteers were surrounded by Ukrainian language, culture and eager adult students.

"The emphasis was on speaking English, so we engaged in conversation as much as possible," Wilson says. "It was interesting to share what life in Canada is like, what I do every day, our food and traditions — and, of course, to hear about the many Ukrainian traditions."

Interacting with fellow volunteers also opened new perspectives. "I was the only teacher from Western Canada, so even interacting with other Canadian teachers, as well as people from the U.S. and Germany, gave me insights into different approaches to education. This really pushed me professionally and personally, and I would definitely recommend something like this to every student."



Being CWL Chair for Catholic Studies has taken me into the diverse cultures and traditions of Calgary and Canada. Together we explore avenues of dialogue and collaboration ... we hope will bear the fruit of justice and peace locally and across the world. I am grateful for this gracious adventure in which no one is a stranger and everyone is a friend.

Dr. Michael Duggan
Professor of Religious Studies
& Theology and CWL Chair for
Catholic Studies

Learn. Research. Experience.

Beyond campus: experiential learning outside the box

St. Mary's provides exciting opportunities for students to extend their learning well beyond the classroom — whether it is exploring a park in a science class or travelling to a different part of the world for an enhanced educational opportunity. By enriching their learning through travel, students see and experience places that provide insights not possible on campus, broaden their cultural horizons and expand their sense of themselves as global citizens along the way. Recent experiences include 29 students visiting the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre on Vancouver Island as part of their coursework and eight students travelling to Rome. A recently signed agreement with Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt in Bavaria will create new opportunities in coming years, as will the ongoing partnership with Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine.

Dr. Scott Lovell, Assistant Professor, Biology, has spent the past five years teaching St. Mary's students about the study of life and living organisms. In June 2016, St. Mary's graduated its first class of Bachelor of Science students with a four-year major in Biology.

Dr. Lovell encourages his students to become more aware of the rich diversity that exists in every aspect of the world. He believes this is best achieved when students step outside the classroom to observe the world firsthand through field work and study labs — in places like Fish Creek Provincial Park, Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area, and Kananaskis Country. Through funding Dr. Lovell received to support his research into the evolutionary ecology of birds, it has been possible to hire students who gain valuable experience working on an original, leading-edge research project.

In February 2017, St. Mary's will celebrate Darwin Day with a talk by Dr. Lovell at the Calgary Zoo. The week following this presentation he will be departing on a field expedition to Belize — a trip he will share with an already fully-subscribed class of students taking his Tropical Ecology and Biodiversity course, offered for the first time in the 2016–17 school year.

St. Mary's creates **opportunities** for faculty to **break away** from **traditional teaching** formats to **engage students** in **experiential** and **innovative** ways. In my **biology classes** I am able to develop **field experiences** both **near** (like Fish Creek Park) and **far** (like Belize) that help **students** to better **understand** our **natural world**. I want my students to **succeed academically** and to take away with them **something** about the **world** we **live in** that will help them **appreciate** the **diversity** of life around **them**.

Dr. Scott Lovell,
Assistant Professor, Biology



Learn. Research. Experience.



2016 Dr. David Lawless Award recognizes research accomplishment

At Convocation, Dr. Corinne Syrnyk was awarded St. Mary's Dr. David Lawless Award for Scholarly Achievement. This award — established in honour of St. Mary's first President — celebrates faculty excellence in research.

A member of St. Mary's faculty since 2012, Dr. Syrnyk is an Associate Professor in Psychology. Her primary research focuses on child development, specifically the "nurture" approach for the healthy development of children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Her work is international in scope with long-term studies currently taking place in England.

Children who do not receive support for social, emotional and behavioral difficulties are at risk of becoming marginalized adults. This has created a unique, collaborative research opportunity at St. Mary's between Dr. Syrnyk, Dr. Tara Hyland-Russell, and St. Mary's *Humanities 101* program. This study examines the experiences of vulnerable adults in this program with a previous history of being excluded from learning environments.

Dr. Syrnyk has also been working on a collaborative research project with St. Mary's colleague, Dr. Alisa McArthur, examining the impact of animal-assisted therapies on volunteers — both human and canine — who participate in these activities.

I'm a **big believer** of research-led teaching. **I think good teaching** is based on **up-to-date research**. It's important to bring what I gain **from the field**, as well as the **latest information**, to my students. I also **encourage students** to **seek new knowledge** and **engage in** discussions that enhance their **own research skills, understanding** and **creative thinking**.

Dr. Corinne Syrnyk,
Associate Professor, Psychology



Gathering. Reconciliation. Dialogue.

Celebrating our campus diversity

St. Mary's University is a place where all people belong. Our commitment to a welcoming, inclusive and diverse environment — for students, faculty and the community alike — is constantly reinforced in policy and action. This reflects the very best of St. Mary's: a university where appreciating differences of thought, identity and experience has always been, and will always be, a core strength.

President Gerry Turcotte and the St. Mary's Faculty Association, on behalf of the university and the faculty, respectively, issued clear statements affirming our commitment to a teaching and learning environment in which intellectual and personal freedom opens the doors to exploring ideas and perspectives.

It is what we hope ultimately helps our students to become more compassionate, just and actively engaged members of our wider human society.

St. Mary's University Faculty Association

all of our students, staff and faculty. ... It is not the place of a university to put up walls, but rather to open its gates, to embrace intellectual inquiry in all matters, and, especially for a Catholic institution like ours, to welcome all who set foot on our

"We take seriously the belief that all people must be welcomed, and that academic freedom must be a critical tenet of our mandate," Turcotte wrote. "Our university has always provided a safe, secure and respectful place for

grounds into our inclusive community."

The Faculty Association stated: "We are proud that our classes welcome and include students of diverse religions (including no religion), gender identities, sexual orientations, ages, ethnicities, abilities, life experiences, cultures and socio-economic backgrounds.

"Our classes invite students to engage critically with challenging — and often provocative, sensitive or controversial — ideas through independent reasoning, fair-minded inquiry and academic rigour. This uncircumscribed critical thinking is at the heart of our university.

"It is what we hope ultimately helps our students to become more compassionate, just and actively engaged members of our wider human society."



Honours for Humanities 101

St. Mary's program that opens the doors to post-secondary education for people who have faced obstacles including poverty, violence, addictions and homelessness was recognized last year with a Calgary Learns Life of Learning Award (LOLA). *Humanities 101* received a Learning Communities Award reflecting the big impact of this small program on the lives of participants.

Approximately 25 students take part each term in *Humanities 101*, proving that breaking down barriers to enable all people to pursue knowledge has the power to transform lives, inspire families and enrich communities.



Gathering. Reconciliation. Dialogue.

Journey to teaching honours culture and tradition

Gaylene Weasel Child is right where she's supposed to be.

"The Creator opens the door and walks you down the path you're meant to be on," says the 2016 graduate of Mary's University's Bachelor of Education program, who teaches high school Math and Physical Education on the Siksika Nation. "When everything comes together, like it did at St. Mary's University, it reinforces that this is where I was meant to be.

"St. Mary's nurtures more than your mind; it nurtures the whole you. And because it is real in its interactions, it enables students to focus on the bigger objective: to become nurturing, respectful, active members of society."

Weasel Child's academic journey included membership on the Advisory Board, which helps guide the First Nations Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Partnership. First Nations, Métis and Inuit, she believes, is instrumental for ensuring First Nations students have every opportunity to succeed academically.

"Some students experience culture shock coming to university," she says of students who may be moving from their Reserve to Calgary for the first time. "And the impact of residential schools is still felt. But having on-campus support from Elders, being able to smudge and having your culture taught in a positive way is huge in helping to build confidence and success.

"St. Mary's does a good job of speaking truthfully, and with an First Nations, Métis and Inuit advisory who wants to listen, follow protocol and not miss any steps. That builds trust and authenticity."

Perhaps most significantly, First Nations issues, perspectives and spirituality were integrated throughout the BEd program, offering all students insights that will be important in their future careers.

"The program is about more than preparing First Nations teachers," Weasel Child explains. "It's about preparing all teachers to better understand First Nations realities, to understand the differences in cultures and communication. This knowledge is especially valuable to teachers."



*Designed by Kristy North Peigan,
a young artist from the Piikuni First Nation.*



Gathering. Reconciliation. Dialogue.

Igniting the success of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students

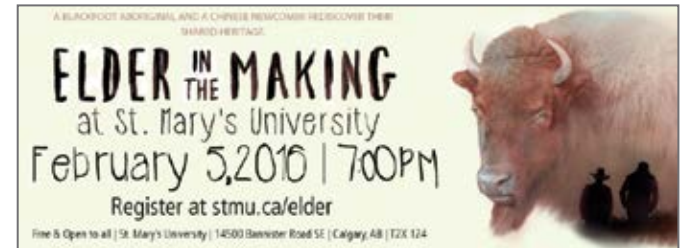
The Post-Secondary Institutions of Calgary are located in the traditional territories of the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) and the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Siksika, the Piikuni, the Kainai, the Tsuut'ina, and the Iyârhe Nakoda. We are situated on land where the Bow River meets the Elbow River, and that the traditional Blackfoot name of this place is "Mohkinstsis" which we now call the City of Calgary. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III. We have come together to collaborate. The First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Partnership launched in 2015 reflects our belief that we are all Treaty 7 people – and that we have much more to learn and share with each other.

On November 10, 2015, faculty and staff took part in *Learning to be Allies: We are all Treaty People*, a workshop focusing on ways to create an environment in which all students can thrive. "Cultural safety

is more than cultural awareness or competency," says Dr. Tara Hyland-Russell, VicePresident, Academic. "It involves us beginning with the history of



colonization in this land we now call Canada, and examining the prior educational contexts for Indigenous learners."



The workshop addressed government policies designed to assimilate Indigenous peoples—including The British North America Act, The Indian Act, the Indian Residential Schools System and the 'Sixties Scoop'—and the devastating impact of these policies on the culture, community and identity of generations of Indigenous people. It was led by Donita Large, a member of the Saddle Lake First Nation who is also the First Nations, Métis and Inuit graduation coach for high school students in the Edmonton Catholic School District.

In February 2015, we proudly hosted a screening and conversation about the powerful and moving *Making Treaty 7* film, the last public conversation facilitated by Calgary theatre pioneer Michael Green before he died in a tragic accident that also claimed the lives of Narcisse Blood (a southern Alberta filmmaker and teacher) and Saskatchewan artists Michelle Sereda and Lacy Morin-Desjarlais. One year later, in February 2016, we screened *Elder in the Making*, honouring the legacies of the film and Green. This extraordinary, award-winning documentary chronicled a Blackfoot Aboriginal and a Chinese newcomer's journey toward reconciliation across Blackfoot territory. Both films are available to faculty and students as learning resources.

To encourage dialogue about often-challenging questions—What is truth? What is knowledge? How do we open minds beyond western, academic and scientific-based thinking?—a one-day symposium, funded by Calgary Learns, was held Feb. 17, 2016, to share perspectives on how knowledge is understood, validated and communicated. The title *Ookaskaspaatassin*—is a Blackfoot word which means Knowledge Sitters. High-profile speaker Susan Zimmerman, Executive Director of Canada's Secretariat on Responsible Conduct of Research, was joined by Leona Makokis and Ralph Bodor from University nuhelot'ine thaiyots'į nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills (Blue Quills University) to explore policies and perspectives alongside academics, agencies, students and community members. The symposium is part of the *Preparing the Lodge* project St. Mary's is undertaking in partnership with Bridges Social Development.

Gathering. Reconciliation. Dialogue.

Gaining insights into Indigenous knowledge

From August 3–7, 2015, participants in St. Mary's University's first Indigenous Knowledge Camp — developed in partnership with St. Mary's First Nations knowledge keepers and Elders, and held at Ghost River Crossing — deepened understanding and appreciation of the complexities of life for Indigenous peoples of Canada.

I found **my heart** slowly being **filled** with **conversations** about **courage, school, life, family, relationships** and **new ways** of understanding **Indigenous people** and ways.

Indigenous Knowledge
Camp participants

Learning about core cultural protocols, Indigenous philosophy and Indigenous ways of knowing enabled those taking part to learn how historical events have shaped the current Indigenous position in Canadian society, and how non-Indigenous people have come to view Indigenous people. These insights are a great benefit not only to students, but to the entire community, and are crucial steps in discrediting stereotypes and addressing misinformed views about Indigenous peoples.

St. Mary's plans to further develop and expand the Indigenous Knowledge Camp approach, offering it as a credit course for all students in the future.



Storying the Urban Warrior breaks new ground

Indigenous literacies were the focus of a one-of-a-kind, arts-based literacy course, *Igniting the Fire: Storying the Urban Warrior*, funded by Calgary Learns and recognized internationally by academicgroup.com on its weekly list of top 10 Indigenous initiatives. This innovative initiative enabled adult Indigenous learners who had experienced barriers to education to explore the value of oral and written traditions through contemporary and historical examples of Indigenous art, performance, creative writing, drama and storytelling.

Artists, mental health professionals, Elders, performers and mentors joined with nine students in 10 classes over five weeks, in May-June, 2016. In addition to developing skills in critical reading and thinking, listening, verbal expression and writing, students took part in ceremony, roundtable

discussions, personal reflections and creative writing, to delve into multiple ways to understand the intersections of history, memory, story and identity.

The students completing the course described it as an amazing, transformative experience. A remarkable book — limited to only 30 in number, on paper made with traditional medicines — was published to commemorate the occasion.

Nothing like *Storying the Urban Warrior* has ever been done before, and post-secondary institutions across Canada have contacted St. Mary's to learn more about the project, with the intent of doing something similar on their campuses. Building on the success of this initial offering, the course will be offered again in 2017.

Gathering. Reconciliation. Dialogue.

Bridging the past, present and future at St. Mary's

Steven Showalter's journey at St. Mary's is a story of the past, present and future of our university. "I remember coming to this place — before it was St. Mary's campus and I was old enough to attend here — to toboggan with my family. It was the best hill for sledding!" Steven says.

Education is a priority in the Showalter family. In the 1990s, Showalter's mother studied history at St. Mary's. The son followed in the mother's footsteps, and those



Mary, Steven, Christina, Julie, Christopher, Andrew and David. Julie received her second degree (Bachelor of Education) from St. Mary's in June 2016.

of an older brother and sister, who also attended St. Mary's to study history. "At one point, my brother, sister, and I were all here at the same time and took a class together. It was crazy and amazing at the same time," recalls Steven.

Although this family history and familiarity with St. Mary's brought Showalter to St. Mary's, it was so much more that led him to stay.

"At first, it was nice that professors already knew my family, but ultimately it was the personal relationships I shared with them. They really care about students here, and support you to do your best."

Showalter has also been a participant in the growth and development of INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES at St. Mary's. "I didn't know I was Métis until I was 12 or 13 and my mom's interest in history led her to research our family tree. I didn't have a living connection to Métis culture in my family. St. Mary's First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Partnership has connected me to my heritage by meeting new people and hearing their stories. It has been an incredible, eye-opening experience."

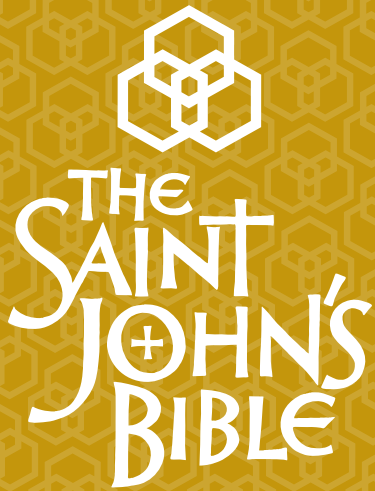
When Showalter graduated with a BA in History in 2016, he was unable to attend the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit graduation ceremony. In November 2016, during

Métis Week in Alberta, a special ceremony was held to celebrate his achievement. He was presented with a Métis sash by St. Mary's Métis Elder-on-Campus, Edmee Comstock. "It was a really special experience," remembers Showalter.

Over the past summer, Showalter spent nine weeks as the Indigenous Initiatives summer student, a position made possible at St. Mary's through a Canada Summer Job grant. Today, he is in his second year of the two-year Bachelor of Education (Elementary) after-degree program at St. Mary's. He is a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta and continues to engage in activities with the Indigenous Initiatives on campus, including being a co-presenter at the Treaty 7 Education Conference this fall.

What does the future hold? "Through my history and education degrees I have learned that not many people know about the legacy of Indigenous people in Canada and the story of residential schools. This is something I have learned about and can share with others." Showalter is also excited to use his education degree to explore new places and learn about new cultures by teaching in another country. "I would like to take some time to use my education to see more of the world. And, who knows, perhaps there's a master's degree somewhere in my future."





THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE

The Heritage Edition provides an accessible link to the original artwork for those who wish to bring its beauty, and its spiritual and historic significance, into their lives and the lives of others.

It is a work of art in its own right and ignites the imagination as it imparts the word of God.

Father Eric Hollas, OSB
Senior Associate,
Arts & Cultural Affairs
Saint John's University



Connect. Engage. Participate.



A sacred connection

In 2012, St. Mary's acquired a Heritage Edition of The Saint John's Bible. Commissioned in 1998 by the Benedictine monks of St. John's Abbey and University in Minnesota, this 1,500-page Bible was created in the tradition of handwritten medieval manuscripts and is the first handwritten and illuminated Bible

produced by a Benedictine monastery in over 500 years. Over 16 years, it was created through the painstaking labour of a team of scribes, artists and craftspeople in a scriptorium in Wales, under the artistic direction of Donald Jackson, one of the world's foremost calligraphers and the Scribe to Queen Elizabeth II.

Like Yale, Vassar, St. Martin-in-the-Fields and The Vatican, St. Mary's University is privileged to be one of only three universities in Canada to own one of the seven-volume, limited Heritage Editions of this masterpiece. Over the past three years, the generous donor support that made it possible for St. Mary's to acquire The Saint John's Bible has contributed to the legacy and vibrancy of St. Mary's University in a significant way. Our donors not only funded the acquisition of the works themselves, but also enabled us to develop an entire program to bring these works to the community, and the community to St. Mary's.

Housed in a specially crafted case (also donor-funded) at St. Mary's Library, an illuminated page of the Bible is displayed each day in the upper portion of the case. The Saint John's Bible initiative also made possible the purchase of five stained glass windows that celebrate the Word of God through stunning imagery of colour and light. The illustrated volumes have also travelled to schools, parishes and partner organizations as part of our community outreach initiative.

The Saint John's Bible has attracted thousands of new visitors to St. Mary's as the centrepiece of exciting activities including talks, lectures and workshops on art, religion and sacred texts; to take courses for the new Certificate in Sacred Arts – Foundations; or, to learn about calligraphy and book production. Available to both students on campus and the general public, approximately 30 courses have been offered in a range of Sacred Arts subject areas over the last three years. To date, 266 individuals have participated and nine Certificates in Sacred Arts – Foundations have been awarded.



This is a work of art, a great work of art... a work for eternity.

His Holiness Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI

Connect. Engage. Participate.

Celebrating
our
diversity



Annual Dinner celebrates St. Mary's

The 2016 year marked the 21st Annual President's Dinner for St. Mary's University. Held at the Heritage Park Gasoline Alley Museum, this prestigious fundraising event helps St. Mary's further the pursuit of excellence in academics and student experiences. The 2016 Keynote Address was delivered by Mr. Rob Ohlson — an accomplished business leader with an innovative corporate approach, who also believes in the importance of social justice and in giving back to the community. His speech, "Philanthropy: Getting Started", spoke of the importance of the pursuit of knowledge, service to the community and living with integrity, and how to use these valuable tools to turn challenges and big notions in life into exciting experiences and philanthropic opportunities. The evening also included a performance by the St. Mary's University Choir and an alumni address by Sepidar Yeganeh Farid. This event has raised nearly \$1.5 million over the past 21 years, supporting countless students through scholarships and bursaries to achieve their educational dreams.



Do I hear music?

St. Mary's University Choir, under the direction of Malcolm Edwards, is open to students (for credit) and to community members. Rehearsing once a week on the St. Mary's campus, the Choir holds two concerts annually, a Winter Concert in December and a Spring Concert in April. The high demand for tickets has now expanded each of these concerts to two performances. The Choir also performs at St. Mary's events throughout the school term. From secular to sacred, members of the St. Mary's University Choir raise their voices in song and celebrate the spirit of music in all of us.

I had **not sung** in
a **choir** in **over 50**
years and I had long
forgotten what a **joy**
it could be.

Choir Member



Connect. Engage. Participate.



Flapjacks and friends: Stampede Breakfast

On July 14, 2016, the best way to start the day was to visit St. Mary's for our annual Stampede Breakfast. Faculty, staff and students hosted the community for a morning of festivities and flapjacks.

In addition to breakfast, this year's event included activities for kids and a sneak peak and celebration of St. Mary's new Heritage Centre.



Stepping up to the tee for St. Mary's

The 15th Annual St. Mary's Golf Tournament was an unprecedented success. Sold out in record-breaking time, the 2015 tournament brought 126 golfers and friends of St. Mary's to the spectacular Silvertip Resort in Canmore. Outstanding hospitality, made-to-order scenery and weather, and fabulous food and service set the day on course. The success leading up to and on the day of this event would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, staff, caring sponsors and student athletes. Golf Tournament Co-Chairs Leo Bunz and Darryl Luhr — long-time friends of St. Mary's — raised the bar for this event together with the 2015 Golf Tournament Committee. This fun-filled day of camaraderie and competitive spirit raised over \$93,000 (gross) to support enhancing the student experience at St. Mary's.

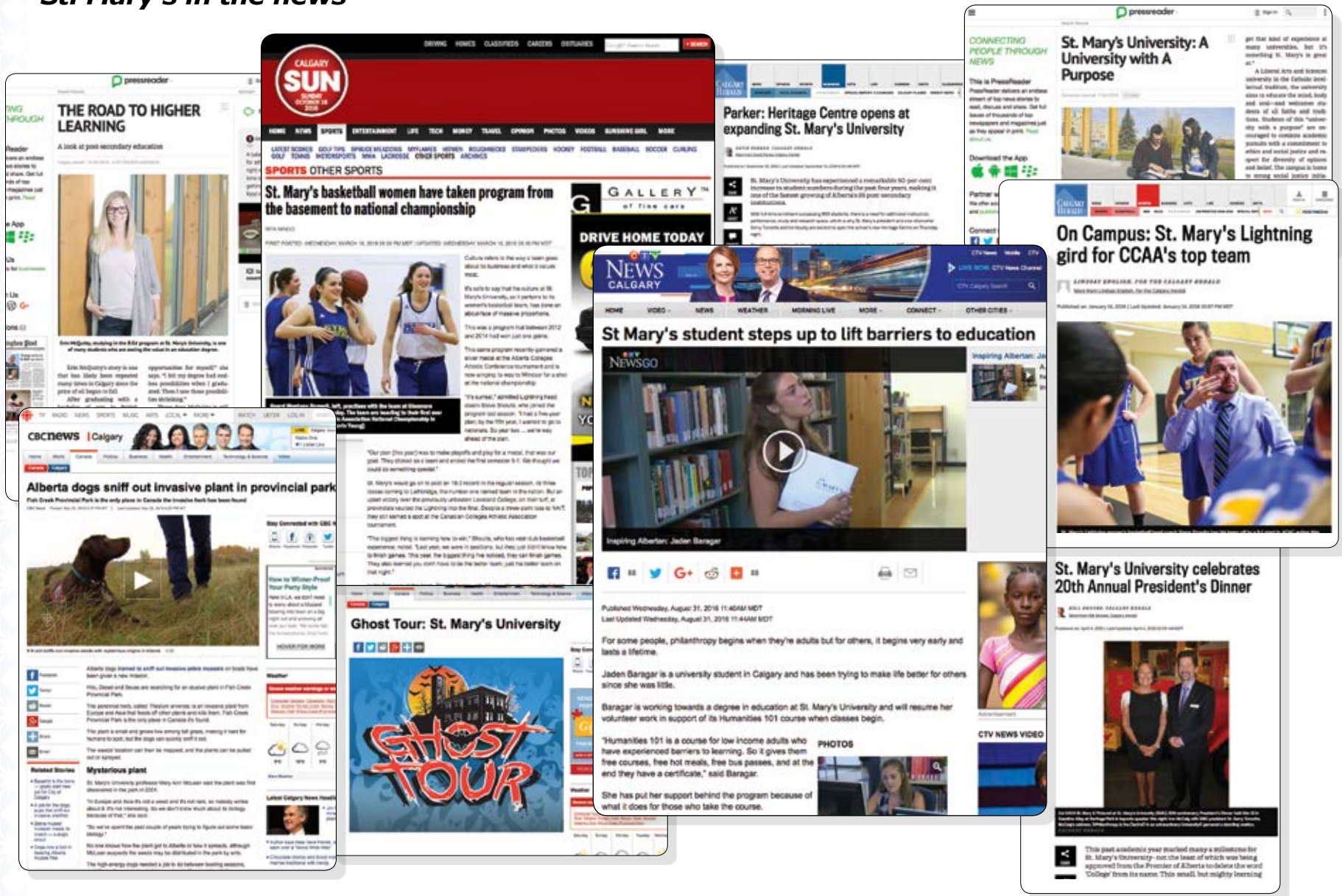


Bringing the ghosts of our campus to life

St. Mary's 5th Annual Ghost Tour and Birthday Celebration — held each September — welcomes the community to St. Mary's storied campus for a spectral adventure and celebration of both past and present. St. Mary's students and alumni, directed this year by Lindsay Weins and Heather Young, re-enact our campus' stories through a script, written by St. Mary's playwright-in-residence, Eugene Stickland, that weaves in equal parts historical events and haunted encounters. This event raises funds for St. Mary's Drama program. This year's tour of our university's "haunted" buildings — including a peek inside our famous water tower and underground tunnels — culminated in the celebration of St. Mary's birthday with the lighting of our historic water tower followed by fireworks to delight a sold-out audience.

Connect. Engage. Participate.

St. Mary's in the news



Give. Volunteer. Champion.

Growing a culture of giving

Giving at St. Mary's University is integral to our campus culture. From student volunteerism, to the entire campus coming together, to welcoming the community to our university for events and activities, to the invaluable financial support from generous donors who enable the university to offer more student awards, augment teaching and learning and build for the future, the spirit and power of giving comes to life at St. Mary's every day.

We are also passionate about social justice and our entire community strives to make our campus, our city and our world better places, and to provide the thoughtful leadership and energy to take action that makes a difference.



Unleashing our volunteer spirit

St. Mary's students continued their important tradition of giving back to the community and their school last year. In addition to the many contributions students make on their own, through Campus Ministry, 20 students volunteered at Father Lacombe Care Centre, assisting with some of the

day programs — knitting, visiting and playing music with residents, and serving refreshments — three days a week. Two students also volunteered with L'Arche Association of Calgary. Theology students earned credit for their volunteer activities.



Calgary Q.C. honoured with university's highest honour!

Mr. John Francis Cordeau, distinguished lawyer, Q.C. and partner at Bennett Jones, was bestowed the university's highest honour at the 2016 Convocation. Joining a long list of distinguished recipients, Mr. Cordeau was named an Honorary Fellow of St. Mary's University. The award recognizes Mr. Cordeau's many years of service on the university's Board of Governors, but it also acknowledges his outstanding philanthropic career, volunteering commitments, and dedication to community service.

Mr. Cordeau became a member of the St. Mary's Foundation in 1995, and in 2003 joined the Board of Governors, subsequently serving as chair of the Audit, Development and President's Dinner Committees.



Mr. Cordeau and his wife, Madam Justice Carolyn Philips, made possible the acquisition of Volume 5 of The Saint John's Bible, Wisdom Books. Their donation supported not only the purchase of the volume itself, but also the display of the book in the community, through guest lectures, school visits and academic workshops.

In the words of the award citation: "Mr. Cordeau has always advocated for social justice causes and exemplifies the spirit St. Mary's in his leadership, community service, and dedication to his family and his faith. We are humbled and proud to welcome our friend and supporter, John Cordeau, to the rights and privileges accorded to an Honorary Fellow of St. Mary's University."



Give. Volunteer. Champion.

Student success inspires a decades-long legacy of giving

When it comes to supporting St. Mary's University, few families have built a legacy of leadership equal to that of the Gagnon family: more than 30 years and counting.

Yolande Gagnon was one of driving forces behind the establishment of St. Mary's and was involved in University governance for years. Today, her daughter, Michelle, continues that tradition as a member of the St. Mary's Board of Governors.



The Gagnons' inspiring contribution of time and talent started with Yolande's role as one of five signatories on the petition asking the Government of Alberta to establish St. Mary's. In subsequent years, the well-respected former member of the Calgary Catholic School Board and MLA served as Chair of the St. Mary's Board (1993–2000), chaired many President's Dinners to generate community support for St. Mary's (she estimates she's attended more than 20 Dinners over the years), and she continues to support a scholarship for first-year students (established in 1997) .

"I've always believed in educating the whole person, in having regard for the dignity of each student, and in fostering academic excellence through small class sizes," she says. "What I love the most is seeing how everyone — students of every age, race and religion, professors and administrators — come together to build this great education community."

Michelle, the president of a private foundation in the city that focuses on improving the lives of children and families, transitioned from committee involvement at St. Mary's to join the Board of Governors in 2015. She is the current chair of the President's Dinner Committee.

"Post-secondary institutions bring together young people at a potentially stressful transitional time in their lives," she notes. "St. Mary's has created a real community, a smaller, safe, stable and supportive environment that enables students to learn, thrive and grow personally, and to become future contributors to society."

Both believe the community is vital to St. Mary's future. "Support from people who have a deep sense of value, love and kindness are integral for keeping the institution vital and progressing," Yolande says. "St. Mary's is a real jewel and has a special role to play in students' lives."



Plan. Build. Grow.

Heritage Centre

St. Mary's is a dynamic place of activity and learning. In response to our rapid growth in student enrolment, our university has been thoughtfully and purposefully increasing our faculty, developing new programs and partnerships, and expanding our initiatives to ensure that every student continues to receive the quality of education and experience that today has made us one of the fastest growing of the 26 post-secondary institutions in Alberta.

These incredible opportunities have resulted in a campus that's filled to overflowing. Physical spaces play a critical role in creating an environment that nurtures knowledge and inspires learning. Working with outside experts and our campus community St. Mary's has developed a plan to address our urgent need for space while respecting the natural, historical, academic and spiritual integrity of our unique campus.

Rather than create a sprawling facility, we chose to focus on how to better redesign the core of our campus. This resulted in a solution to preserve the historic centre and enhance it with new spaces to address urgent needs while maintaining the sense of close community and accessibility that defines who we are.

The top priority of the campus plan was the creation of an exciting new facility at the heart of our campus – the Heritage Centre. The generous support of donors over the last few years raised the \$2.8 million in funding needed for this project. Construction of the new Heritage Centre began in June 2016. The official opening of the new Heritage Centre is November 3, 2016.

Building a legacy of support

Using contributions from campus appeals and solicitations to our family of donors, this new Centre has been built by donors who — believing in innovation and the future of St. Mary's — made the Heritage Centre a reality through the spirit of giving.

Three milestone gifts supporting the new Centre are at the heart of this new building on campus. St. Mary's acknowledges the generous support of Marge and Stan Owerko, Jeanne and Frank Vetsch, and Agnes and Ed Rewucki (pictured left to right). All long-time friends of St. Mary's, their commitment and generosity over many years have collectively impacted St. Mary's in countless ways. From The Saint John's Bible, to state-of-the-art technology, to scholarships and other initiatives that support student life and learning, their investments in St. Mary's are thoughtful, heartfelt and fundamental to our success. Their visionary support of the new Heritage Centre has transformed our campus in immeasurable ways and turns the page on the next chapter at St. Mary's University.



Plan. Build. Grow.

St. Mary's scenic 35-acre campus is located on land rich in history. Built on traditional Blackfoot territory in Treaty 7, it also includes designated provincial heritage buildings dating back to the time of Father Lacombe and Midnapore's early settlement in the early 1900s. St. Mary's has already carefully transformed a number of historic building interiors into classrooms and common areas that provide the best in modern amenities for our students, while at the same time honouring the integrity of these unique buildings.

Our new Heritage Centre celebrates the history of the land upon which our campus is built while offering creative and expansive new multi-purpose spaces where art and culture, teaching and learning, campus and community will merge in new and innovative ways never before possible. The design of the Heritage Centre offers our students an environment where they can learn, grow, do and achieve more than they ever thought possible. It's about ensuring our campus continues to be a vital, energizing and inspiring place in which to teach and learn.

The Heritage Centre is a dynamic new facility of integrated spaces, offering the flexibility and adaptability to create an exceptional learning and teaching

"Our new Heritage Centre brings people to a place of inquiry," says Dr. Tara Hyland-Russell, Vice-President, Academic. "It offers infinite possibilities for innovative teaching and learning and, as an ideal venue for drama and choir rehearsals and performances, will be a connection point for arts and culture. In every way, the Heritage Centre will be a vital place for developing the whole person – mind, body and spirit."

environment. It brings together a number of important programs that are currently in various locations across campus while also creating a place where new programs and initiatives will flourish. The new Centre consists of a main gallery, lobby, side gallery and link space, and shines the spotlight on the restoration and interior renovation of the historic water tower.

Our deep-rooted connection to the land and its history is reflected in the actual design principles of this new building. The Heritage Centre draws its overall inspiration from the timber frame structure of the historic water tower. A simple, exposed-timber truss and post-and-beam construction gives this new space a contemporary, yet historic, feel. Inside, state-of-the-art technology and equipment supports its myriad uses.



Jeanne and Frank Vetsch



Don Verdonck and Ed Rewucki



Don Verdonck, Graham Sucha and Gerry Turcotte



Plan. Build. Grow.

The main lobby, side gallery and new link to the Le Fort Centre will be a hub of activity and a pivotal student gathering space, centralizing the campus' student services and food services functions. During events and performances in the main gallery, these spaces transform into reception areas, accommodating pre- and post-function and intermission needs.

The main gallery's 1,800 sq. ft. will feature retractable theatre seating for approximately 120 people, making this space the perfect environment for campus and community dramatic and musical performances, as well as large educational and cultural gatherings. Equipped with state-of-the-art IT and AV equipment — and easy storage and access to a portable stage, props and choir risers — the Main Gallery meets the teaching and rehearsal needs of St. Mary's Drama and Choral programs. When seating is retracted, the open space can host art exhibitions and receptions, be used by university programs such as our best-practice Bachelor of Education (Elementary) program (to configure multiple teaching scenarios), to teach across disciplines, and to provide space for sacred and celebratory events, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit ceremonies.

Large sliding "barn-style" doors open to a side gallery space and, in the summer months, will provide access from the new Heritage Centre to outside gathering spaces in the surrounding courtyard.

The interior of St. Mary's historic water tower will be transformed into a distinctive gallery space unlike anything in Calgary. Following restoration of the exterior, the character of this historic landmark will be preserved and given new life as a space that can now be experienced from within. This will be where community and campus intersect: where both students and local community artists and groups showcase their work in a prime exhibit venue.

Having a venue like the Heritage Centre enhances St. Mary's ability to welcome inspiring speakers and guests, to share knowledge and cultural experiences, and to open the doors to innovation in teaching and learning. It offers immeasurable value to our faculty, staff, stakeholders and students, as well as the Calgary community. Completed on time and on budget — we can't wait to welcome you inside!

"The Heritage Centre reflects the remarkable growth and history of St. Mary's," says Board Vice-Chair Don Verdonck, who guided the project. "It reflects our past, serves our present and is an outstanding space in which to realize the promise of the future."



Plan. Build. Grow.

Help us build the future of St. Mary's



Plan. Build. Grow.

Growing Our Future: St. Mary's Central

As we celebrate St. Mary's 30th Anniversary, we honour our past and plan for the future. Through thoughtful planning and consultation, we would like St. Mary's Central to be the next exciting step in our campus vision. Like our Heritage Centre, the proposed new spaces that comprise St. Mary's Central would address our extraordinary growth and prepare our university for future innovation and opportunity. This will be achieved while ensuring the heart of our campus continues to be a unique environment with the critical spaces needed to nurture knowledge and inspire learning.

We invite you to join us in the creation of St. Mary's Central. It is only with support from our community of donors that this vision for our future campus will become a reality. Together, we have an opportunity to help St. Mary's grow — firmly rooted in the traditions and values on which our university was built — for the benefit of generations of students to come.

Creating an environment where opportunity meets excellence

What we hope to build

St. Mary's Central is a building complex composed of three wings that will be accessed from a central hub and gathering space. It will add 95,000 sq. ft. of vitally needed space and solve immediate needs of the university in a single, integrated facility.

The two-storey classroom and administration wing will include up to 10 classrooms (approximately 350 classroom seats), flexible study areas, office space and a boardroom. This space would accommodate the tremendous growth in student enrolment in recent years and creates space for the future, While ensuring St. Mary's continues to deliver on small-sized classes and focus on our students.

A four-storey residence wing will provide spaces for 100 beds that are possible in a variety of configurations (quad, double or single units). This creates a whole new dimension to our university and campus life. Currently, students attending St. Mary's from afar must find off-campus housing. This new residence will create an opportunity for more students — locally, nationally and internationally — to attend our university and be a more integral part of campus life.

The single-storey gymnasium and wellness facility will meet Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) competition requirements – enabling St. Mary's sports teams to host home games in their own facility for the first time.

The three parts of St. Mary's Central are connected by a central hub that provides flexible space for informal congregation and food services; places that support communication, discussion and social interaction that are a vital part of a university experience.

*To learn more about how you can make a difference at St. Mary's, please visit stmu.ca/donate or contact **Thérèse Takacs** at **403-254-3139** or therese.takacs@stmu.ca.*



In Memoriam

St. Mary's remembers our faculty and staff who have passed away over the past year. We celebrate their lives, their passion for teaching and learning, and their dedicated service to St. Mary's. They will be remembered in our hearts and minds for their caring, commitment and countless contributions.

Dr. Vittorio (Vic) Grossi (1957–2015)

Dr. Grossi was born in Italy and immigrated with his family to Canada and Calgary at an early age. He was a prominent psychologist in Calgary for over 25 years and combined his practice with a passion for teaching and his research interests in clinical and forensic psychology. At St. Mary's he taught these subjects to avid learners for over 15 years and was an admired and respected adjunct assistant professor. He is remembered as a good and gentle person who brought compassion to the world and to our university.

Dr. David Lawless (1932–2015)

Dr. Lawless was St. Mary's first President and Vice-Chancellor from 1996–1999. He was instrumental in selecting the site for our campus and passionate about the importance of the role of the Catholic intellectual tradition in post-secondary education. Dr. Lawless worked tirelessly to lead St. Mary's and build and support its mission. In 2005 he was named a St. Mary's Honorary Fellow. He is remembered as a scholar, a visionary, and a gentleman whose faith and commitment shaped the history of our university.

Dr. Ernest McCullough (1925–2015)

Dr. McCullough, Professor Emeritus, is remembered as a long-time teacher, colleague and friend. He was named a St. Mary's Honorary Fellow in 2015. Students benefited from his vast knowledge and wisdom in medieval philosophy (Albertus Magnus and Thomas Aquinas), history and philosophy of science, logic, ethics and bioethics, metaphysics and epistemology, and, most importantly, from his caring support for their educational journey. *The Notre Dame des Rocheuses Scholarship*, established in 1998, was funded by Dr. McCullough and his wife, Sue.

Tracy Watters (1958–2016)

Mr. Watters, our security officer, was devoted to the safety of St. Mary's students, faculty and staff. He valued his relationships with family and friends, and made a point of getting to know what mattered to people. His kindness and caring shone through his big heart and equally big "side hug," and his strength was shared most poignantly during his illness. The St. Mary's community was honoured to have the opportunity to return those hugs during his final days.

St. Mary's mourns the passing of the following members of the Board of Governors over the past year. It is with grateful hearts, we remember their generosity of spirit, wisdom, time and commitment.

John (Jack) Dietrich (1929–2015)

Jack began his service on St. Mary's University's Board of Governors in 2002. As well as serving on the Board's Finance Committee and Site Planning Committee, he co-chaired the 2001 President's Dinner. It is with gratitude that we remember Jack's generosity, time and talent.

Mary Magdalene Stengler (1946–2016)

Mary joined St. Mary's Community Advisory Council in 2003 and served as that group's Chair from 2015 onwards. In 2009, she joined the Board of Governors as the representative of the Community Advisory Council. Mary's love of learning and deep faith were evident in her passion for Catholic education.

Achieve. Graduate. Celebrate.

Our happiest day of the year: Convocation

Convocation is a joyous time for students, families, friends and the entire community, and our 2016 Convocation set a new joy-filled standard. A total of 162 students — graduated in June 2016, with many taking part in the ceremony on June 10. This marks the highest number of graduates in St. Mary's 30-year history. A particular point of pride this year was celebrating the achievements of our first graduates in the BSc (Biology) and BA (History) programs.



Achieve. Graduate. Celebrate.

A better world starts by connecting hearts

Erin Henderson has gone where few undergraduates go: to the pages of an international, peer-reviewed journal.

A paper written by the 2016 Valedictorian and Bachelor of Arts – Psychology graduate, “Introducing Bede Griffiths: Dialogue with Hinduism in Light of Vatican II,” was published in *Lumen: A Journal of Catholic Studies*, in January 2016.

Rarely do undergraduate papers make it to the pages of journals, so publishers were surprised to hear that Henderson would graduate only in June. Dr. Michael Duggan, the professor of religious studies who worked with Henderson to polish the paper, wasn’t surprised at all.

“Erin is very interested in holistic learning, in how people become citizens of the world,” he explains. “She learns from her courses in order to learn from people.”

Henderson says Dr. Duggan and St. Mary’s University were key factors in her achievement. “It was a fantastic experience,” she says, “because it opened my eyes to social justice and to the ‘helping hands’ offered in Calgary. I took religious studies not to learn about religion, but to learn about humanity, how we should treat each other and how we grow the connections among human beings.”

In her new role at Sonshine Community Services, a women’s shelter, Erin combines what she learned in the classroom and her passion for helping others with the belief she can be a positive force for change.

“Dr. Duggan’s classes were amazing. I left thinking I can make a difference; I can change the world.”

Her professor knows she will. “People like Erin help us continue to develop in this evolutionary universe,” Duggan says. “To become human beings who have the capacity to care for one another, she begins with the most marginalized. She is re-imagining things.”

“Teaching someone like her enables me to be a better instructor. Here at St. Mary’s, students have an opportunity to take part in a communal learning experience and to find their voice. For those who really engage in the process, like Erin has, it delivers amazing results.”

A message from the Class of 2016

Valedictorian Erin Henderson addressed her fellow graduates at St. Mary’s University Convocation on June 10, 2016. She summed up her comments with words of deep gratitude — and a promise.



“We, the graduating class of 2016 have this broader set of academic experiences that allows us to approach many of the world’s issues more critically with the intention of delivering innovative and impactful solutions. We can attribute this newfound confidence to St. Mary’s.”



Achieve. Graduate. Celebrate.



Making History

Unveiling a mace for St. Mary's

At our 2016 Convocation, a new tradition was added to the St. Mary's story. The St. Mary's university mace was used for the first time in ceremony.

The Rose Family Memorial Mace was dedicated on June 9, 2016 in celebration of St. Mary's 30th anniversary. It is a gift from the descendants of Harold Henry Rose and recognizes the same passion, vision and perseverance he shared with the founders of St. Mary's and all who make St. Mary's what it is today. The Mace was designed by Dr. Linda J. Henderson, Associate Professor of Sociology at St. Mary's University and granddaughter of H.H. Rose.

The Rose Family Memorial Mace was crafted by the prestigious British firm of Thomas Fattorini Ltd. It features the St. Mary's Star and Coat of Arms as well as a small "compass rose." The compass rose symbolizes the diverse origins and destinations of the individuals who spend time at St. Mary's University on their path through life. This motif was inspired by the work of the late Janet Rose C.C. (Chartered Cartographer), granddaughter of H.H. Rose. Janet was a visionary pioneer in the geomatics industry. She completed a comprehensive mapping project of St. Mary's in 2011–2012, making us the first university in North America to be scanned and photographed with revolutionary LiDAR-based indoor mapping technology.

The mace is an ancient symbol of authority dating to medieval times. At universities today, it is a ceremonial symbol of the authority of the Chancellor. The Rose Family Memorial Mace will be presented at all future Convocations and at the installation of a President or Chancellor at St. Mary's. It reminds us of the traditions and values of learning on which our university was founded and of the powerful role education and knowledge play in the shaping of our lives and our world.





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