

2018
Report to
Community



Table of Contents

1

 President's Welcome

2

 Board of Governors

3

 Message from the Chair

4-5

 St. Mary's Leadership Team

6-20

 Academics

21-29

 Student Services

30-31

 Campus Ministry

32-40

 Advancement

41-45

 Business & Finance

46

 In Memoriam

47-49

 Convocation

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.



Sharing our story

The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines “openness” as “a lack of restriction; accessibility,” as “acceptance of or receptiveness to change or new ideas” and as a “lack of secrecy or concealment; frankness.” It defines “excellence” as the “quality of being outstanding,” and it defines “quality” as a “degree of excellence” in a particular area. These are the words that come to mind when I think about St. Mary’s University — a place of welcome, excellence, innovation and tradition ... a dynamic Catholic university open to all!

St. Mary’s continues to be one of the most remarkable institutions in Canada. Small by university standards, our nearly 1,000 students constitute the essence of Alberta’s fastest-growing university, one that has grown by more than 70% in the last five years alone. Asked why we are growing at this rate, my answer is always the same: St. Mary’s is committed to excellence at all levels.

Great academics attract great students who flock to our campus in search of a quality education delivered in what is now a fairly rare format: small class sizes offering attention to the individual, where students are in the lecture, the seminar, the lab and the field with their professors. It is a level of engagement that is only possible because of our small class sizes and committed faculty.

Our staff also excel in every way because they believe in the mission of the university. From our caretakers to our advisors, administrative assistants to recruiters and beyond, St. Mary’s is a family, and our strength grows from the commitment of and to our people.

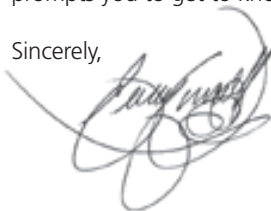
This incredible backbone — tethered to our Catholic mission and our celebration of a 2,000-year-old Catholic Intellectual Tradition — offers a truly unique experience for all those who are part of the wider St. Mary’s community.

The St. Mary’s experience is exemplary and this *Report to Community* shines a light on a small part of our remarkable story. Highlighting a volunteering spirit that has seen hundreds of students, staff and faculty join me to support critical causes for social justice; the refurbishment of virtually all of our buildings thanks to generous support from committed donors; significant external awards received over the past year; the awesomeness of our Indigenous programs and initiatives; the quality of our staff, faculty and students; our commitment to faith and education; the quality of food services; the success of our programs; and much, much more in every instance, a special St. Mary’s light shines through.

We strive to build on this. As we move towards the end of 2018, St. Mary’s is preparing to launch its new Strategic Plan, which will outline our goals for new academic programs, new buildings and infrastructure and new opportunities for educational excellence.

St. Mary’s continues to be a university with heart. This *Report to Community* reflects but a small part of that passion, commitment and resonance. We hope you enjoy this publication, and that it prompts you to get to know us even better.

Sincerely,




Gerry Turcotte, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor

St. Mary's University Board of Governors

as at June 2018

Most Reverend William T. McGrattan	Chancellor
Mr. Don Verdonck	Chair & Treasurer
Ms. Georgine Ulmer	Vice-Chair
Fr. Avinash Colaco	Chancellor's Designate
Dr. Gerry Turcotte	President & Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Luke Bresky	Faculty Representative
Ms Chimdie Ufondu	Student Representative
Vacant	Community Advisory Council Representative
Mr. Rafael de la Peña	Administrative Staff Representative
Mr. Michael D. Rooney	Alumni Representative
Most Reverend Gregory Kerr-Wilson	Ecumenical Representative

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Ms Mary Comeau

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Ms Cindy Provost

Mr. Paul Valentine

Officers

Ms Kim Bourque, University Secretary

Dr. Tara Hyland-Russell, Vice-President Academic

Mr. Bob Hann, Vice-President Student Services

Ms Thérèse Takacs, Vice-President Advancement

Greg McIntomny, Vice-President Business and Finance

Message from the Chair

St. Mary's is proud of what it has achieved in its 30+ year history. In the last few years, our conspicuous growth has validated to the Board that the direction in which the University is moving is the right one. This growth has been a testament to the University's commitment to access, affordability and academic excellence. We offer a dynamic list of programs in the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences — with offerings in more than thirty academic disciplines — and a Bachelor of Education program that continues to build on the excellence our graduates are realizing as teachers in our community and beyond.

Despite having the lowest government funding of any post-secondary institution in Alberta, on a per-student basis, we continue to excel while maintaining tuition levels comparable to other public institutions. We also continue to offer programs that promote access to disadvantaged learners, First Nations communities, disabled students and non-traditional learners. We continue to be a leader in Indigenous reconciliation nationally and to deliver our award-winning Humanities 101 program for Calgary's most economically disadvantaged citizens. Our athletics programs are reaching new heights with gold and silver medals and our social justice initiatives continue to grow in number and positive impact.

This year, St. Mary's plans for the future will be mapped out in a new Strategic Plan that will highlight our commitment to be resolute, creative and future-focused. Our faculty and staff, both long-term and new, are energized to bring forward new ideas as we continue to grow our University. We are incredibly proud of our Catholic university and know that with the right people — alumni, students, staff and faculty — our future is well assured.

This Report to Community demonstrates St. Mary's creative, strategic and economic strengths. I am proud to sit on a Board that supports this positive energy and serves learners who want excellence in academic training coupled with small class sizes and personalized attention that allows them to develop fully and uniquely. St. Mary's is ready to embark on another remarkable chapter and the future is bright.




*Don Verdonck
Chair & Treasurer,
Board of Governors*

Leadership Update



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



Thérèse Takacs
Vice-President Advancement



Greg McIntomny
Vice-President Business and Finance



Bob Hann
Vice-President Student Services

At St. Mary's University, students are at the heart of all that we do and St. Mary's is proud to have four exceptional Vice-Presidents, who – in leadership portfolios of Academics, Advancement, Finance, and Student Services – are passionate and dedicated to ensuring that our university continues to meet the ever evolving needs of our student body while advancing the core values that represent what it truly means to be a member of the St. Mary's University community.

As a Liberal Arts and Sciences University, St. Mary's is committed to excellence in teaching, learning, and research. In order to achieve these goals, we catalyze a positive environment where students feel supported and are provided the necessary skills and guidance to achieve their personal and academic goals. We ensure that our faculty keep current on scholarly developments in their respective fields while adopting and implementing rigorous and transformative teaching practices.

Partnerships play a large role at St. Mary's in helping create experiences that enrich the learning process for our students, but also increase the opportunities for our staff, faculty and the broader community. This includes our unwavering commitment to Indigenous initiatives and answering the call put forth by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as St. Mary's continues to be a safe place for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous learners to gather and grow together. We are engaged in a blossoming, multi-generational collaboration with our campus neighbour, United Active Living, for a groundbreaking intergenerational life writing project that will combine stories and art into a rich tapestry of human connection. St. Mary's welcomed our first ever German exchange student and have also further solidified our relationship with the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine, that has led to dynamic student exchange opportunities.

Ensuring that St. Mary's programs continue to provide the best educational experience for our students is always our main priority and this cannot be achieved without working closely with faculty. Collaboratively and collegially, St. Mary's University was able to sign a collective agreement with faculty to ensure that they have the tools and support in place necessary to continue delivering the exceptional quality of education that St. Mary's has become known for.

It was a monumental year for our athletics programs, culminating with our first ever Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) gold medal, thanks to the tremendous performances of our women's basketball team. Our growing athletics portfolio has already helped increase our standing as we were able to host our first ever ACAC sanctioned Cross-Country race on campus this past year.

Thanks to the generosity of donors and funding from the Government, we have been able to restore, renovate and create new, multifunctional spaces for our students and the community. The new Mauro Gallery within our Historic Water tower is a unique exhibition space that will become a cultural hub for St. Mary's University and the local community. Two new technologically advanced classrooms were added to the St. Basil's Hall Library to help accommodate our third Bachelor of Education (Elementary) cohort.

There is much to celebrate at St. Mary's and this Report to the Community highlights the many achievements and success that have helped shape our vibrant university. As we continue to honour the past and look forward to the future, our goal remains clear: to create compassionate, caring, thinkers and leaders of tomorrow.

Strengthening government relationships



A walk in the park

The Hon. Shannon Phillips, Alberta Minister of Environment and Parks, and Graham Sucha, Calgary-Shaw MLA, visited St. Mary's on Nov. 30, 2017. Fire mitigation, water quality in Fish Creek Park, and how St. Mary's can work with the Ministry to create opportunities for students to partner with Alberta provincial parks were among the many topics covered in the lively discussion. Biology students and faculty showcased research projects and other initiatives, and students' informed questioning received thoughtful and considered replies.

Meeting of minds

On May 10, 2018, the Hon. Marlin Schmidt, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education, and Graham Sucha, Calgary-Shaw MLA, toured the St. Mary's campus and engaged in discussion with alumni, students and faculty. Meeting in person and being part of in-depth dialogue, including asking questions on various topics, was especially valuable for students, who spoke candidly and felt their voices were being heard. Putting a "face" to government and listening to the Minister's thoughts and concerns about Alberta was impactful.



St. Mary's University invites Government of Alberta Ministers to the campus on a regular basis to foster ongoing relationships. These are important opportunities to deepen understanding of the University, showcase projects and highlight the contributions that faculty, students and alumni make to Alberta's future. Engaging in discussions provides valuable insights into the workings of government, and offers students, in particular, a unique learning opportunity to develop the skills and experience to be informed and effective citizens.

Two new academic Deans ready to lead

Visionary academic leaders are instrumental in ensuring St. Mary's programs offer the foundation for graduates' future success. The University was pleased to announce the appointment of two new Deans in 2017–18. Both will share their extensive knowledge and expertise with peers and students alike, furthering the University's commitment to academic excellence.

Dr. Norman Knowles, Dean of Arts and Sciences

One of St. Mary's original faculty members, Dr. Knowles has held various positions over more than 30 years, most recently serving as Associate Dean and Director of Research. His dedication to and passion for the University, and the high regard he holds for colleagues and students, is unparalleled. Serving in a variety of capacities over his three decades — including as a member of the Board of Governors, the faculty association (which he helped found) and almost every institutional committee — he has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership. Dr. Knowles' commitment to service has enabled him to develop a robust understanding of the Alberta post-secondary context, which will be particularly relevant in his role as Dean.

Dr. Knowles earned his Honours BA (History/Political Science) at Huron College, University of Western Ontario, his MA (History) from Queen's University and completed his PhD (History) from York University.

Dr. Sarah Twomey, Dean of Education

Dr. Sarah Twomey joined St. Mary's on Aug. 15, 2018, after most recently serving as Director of the Education Doctorate in Professional Practice at the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i. She has extensive experience in education, having served previously as a junior/intermediate teacher, curriculum developer and an instructor in language and literacy. St. Mary's commitment to social justice is vital to Dr. Twomey, who believes that education can improve the human condition by facilitating change that benefits those who most need it. In leading the next stage in the development of St. Mary's Education program, Dr. Twomey will ensure teachers have a strong foundation of social justice and that they are prepared to contribute to the important work education should be doing in society.

Dr. Twomey holds a BA (Theatre), B.Ed. (Junior/Intermediate) and M.Ed. (Curriculum and Instruction) from Queen's University. She completed her PhD (Language and Literacy Education) at the University of British Columbia.



Dr. Norman Knowles



Dr. Sarah Twomey

Great teachers inspire great learners

The St. Mary's community is blessed to have outstanding faculty who are experts in their fields and passionate about sharing that knowledge with students. This commitment provides students with an outstanding experience, enabling them to deepen their learning in myriad ways. In 2018, St. Mary's honoured two faculty members with annual awards recognizing teaching excellence and scholarly achievement.

St. Mary's University Award for Teaching Excellence: Sonja Johnston

Sonja Johnston (Lecturer in Accounting and Management Studies) embodies passionate engagement with teaching through her deep commitment to student learning and success. Her students value how she grounds courses in practical, real-world applications and appreciate her mentorship in building business cases, developing detailed financial plans, and increasing their capacity in sound investment and management principles. Through her teaching, Sonja is inspiring future innovators and leaders to embrace and unleash their own potential.



Sonja Johnston receiving the St. Mary's University Award for Teaching Excellence at St. Mary's 2018 Convocation

Dr. David Lawless Award for Scholarly Achievement: Dr. Jennifer Garrison

Dr. Jennifer Garrison (Associate Professor, English) is a dedicated scholar of medieval and early modern literature. She is particularly interested in examining how medieval people imagined their own individual and communal identities in relation to power structures that were often oppressive and restrictive. Jennifer is currently working on a book project entitled *Confessing Masculinity: Gender, Penance, and Futurity in Medieval English Literature*, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Part of the SSHRC funding enables a senior English student from St. Mary's, Emma Usselman, to be engaged as a project Research Assistant.



Dr. Jennifer Garrison

St. Mary's Grants fuel discovery

St. Mary's faculty contribute to a growing global body of knowledge through their research efforts, and St. Mary's grants received in 2018 helped propel those investigations. Recipients included:

- Tim Harvie** Embodied Hope: Eschatology and the Evolved Flesh of the Natural World
- Jocelyn Williams** Disarmed Pedagogy
- Cory Wright-Maley** StarPower: Simulation's Impact on Preservice Teachers' Views of Power and Inequality

Generating, acquiring and sharing knowledge

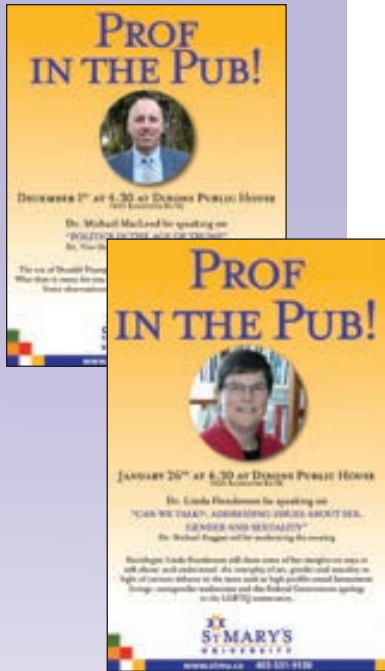
From classroom lectures to field trips, community lectures to academic publications and presentations, St. Mary's University revolves around creating, fostering and spreading knowledge — on campus, within the wider academic community and throughout the community.

Profs in the Pub: a new way to launch great conversations

Pubs are popular gathering places where people readily share thoughts and opinions — so what better place to strike up conversations! St. Mary's launched *Profs in the Pub* to spark lively, informal discussions among faculty and with the wider community, showcasing the diversity of scholarly work undertaken at St. Mary's and how it connects to bigger questions about spirituality, ethics, politics and much more. Dixon's Pub, just five minutes from the St. Mary's campus, was the venue for four free events (donations invited), each of which was moderated.

Featured faculty included Dr. Linda Henderson, whose presentation was titled "Can we talk?: Addressing issues about sex, gender and sexuality;" Dr. Michael MacLeod, who opened dialogue by focusing on "Politics in the Age of Trump;" Dr. Michael Duggan, who talked about "The Importance of Being Interreligious in the 21st Century;" and Dr. Cory Wright-Maley, who spoke about "Teaching for Democracy in an Age of Economic Disparity."

The four inaugural events proved to be informative, thought-provoking, engaging — as well as tasty — ways to wrap up workweeks and join with others to talk about some contemporary social issues.



Publishing and presenting

St. Mary's University faculty have much to add to the expanding global body of knowledge. Faculty contribute to textbooks as writers and editors, author books in areas of expertise, and have articles published in journals, magazines, newsletters, online media and more. They also present regularly at conferences across Canada and beyond. Highlights of just some of the 2017–18 activities include:

Presentations

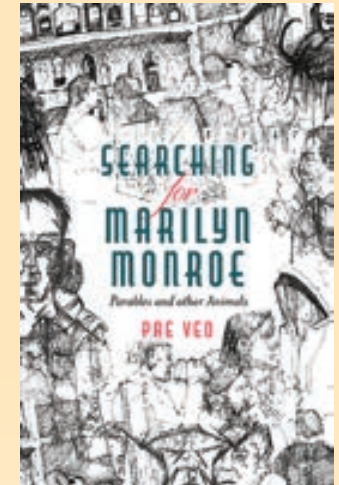
- Trent Davis** "The Tears that a Civil Servant Cannot See: Emmanuel Levinas and the Conditions of Peace in the Time of the Refugee" at the Pacific Northwest Region American Academy of Religion, Calgary
- **Linda Henderson** "Some Thoughts on Making Introduction to Sociology Sociological" at the Pacific Sociological Association, Long Beach, Calif.
- **Michael Macleod** "Faith-Based Activism and Global Capitalism" Pacific Northwest Region American Academy of Religion, Calgary
- **Mary Ann McLean, Eric McLeod, Keegan Pronovost** "A Clean Electricity Teaching Tool: Microbial Fuel Cells at the Association for Biology Laboratory Education, Madison, Wisc.
- **Alisa McArthur, Corinne Syrnyk** "Who are Animal-Assisted Therapy Volunteers? Characteristics and Motivations" at the Association of Psychological Science, Boston
- **Paoline Seitz, Laurie Hill** "Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action: Collaboration Between Tsuut'ina Education and St. Mary's University" at the Canadian Association of Teacher Education, Regina

From student to author

Author and St. Mary's University student Pae Veo believes that, when writing a book, sometimes the best voice isn't the writer's, but rather the voices of those the writer has listened to over many years. In his new book, *Searching for Marilyn Monroe – Parables and other Animals*, published by Friesen Press, those voices come through with striking clarity.

Veo, who writes under a pseudonym, achieved his dream after a prolonged period of trial and error, and after living an admittedly unconventional life (he went camping for eight years without a tent, learning to listen as he was surrounded by people suffering from addiction and mental health issues).

In his novel, which has been described as existential fiction, Veo delves into a wide variety of subject matter, masterfully tapping into emotions and eloquently capturing sensitive topics. His ability to tell those stories, he believes, was honed at St. Mary's, where philosophy courses gave him better ways to express his thoughts, and writing courses — in particular the creative writing course offered by Eugene Stickland, award-winning author and playwright, and former St. Mary's Playwright-in-Residence — enabled him to develop his craft.



Publications

Peter Baltutis "The Value of a Catholic Community" article in *The Torch* • **Luke Bresky** "A Day-Dream, and Yet a Fact" book chapter in *Stories of Nation: Fictions, Politics, and the American Experience* • **Jennifer Garrison** "Handbooks for Confessors" review in *Oxford Bibliographies in Medieval Studies* • **Tim Harvie, Michael Macleod** "In God's Country: Spatial Sacredness in U2" chapter in *U2 and the Religious Impulse: Take Me Higher* • **Laurie Hill** "Negotiating Identity: Pre-Service Teachers Consider Conceptions of Learning and Teaching" chapter in *At the Intersection of Selves and Subject: Exploring the Curricular Landscape of Identity* • **Norman Knowles** "As Christ the Carpenter: Work Camp Missions and the Construction of Christian Manhood in late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Canada" chapter in *Making Men, Making History* • **Ronald Porter, Leandre Fabrigar** "Factor Analysis" review in *Oxford Bibliographies in Psychology* • **Carolyn Salomons** "A Church United in Itself: Hernando de Talavera and the Religious Culture of Fifteenth Century Castile" article in *Catholic Historical Review* • **Gayle Thrift** "Has God a Lobby in Ottawa?: The Protestant Left in the United Church of Canada during the Vietnam War, 1966-68" chapter in *North American Christian Community and the Cold War* • **Cory Wright-Maley** "Children Should Know Where Meat Comes From: Problematizing Meat-Eating in Elementary Schools" chapter in *(Re)Imagining Elementary Social Studies: A Critical Reader* •

Symposium participation expands learning

For several St. Mary's University Biology students, attending the 2018 Prairie University Biology Symposium (PUBS) demonstrated their initiative, showed they were keen to learn more, and highlighted the quality of the St. Mary's program. One student, Bethany Topping, combined it all by seizing on the opportunity to make a presentation based on a research paper completed for her Introduction to Ecology course.

PUBS brings together thousands of undergraduate and graduate students from prairie universities across Canada and the United States. It's an opportunity to share research and discover what others are up to in a gathering designed to promote networking and forge connections among colleagues that could help students reach future goals.

In addition to benefiting from sharing her work with like-minded scholars, Topping enhanced her self-confidence and communication skills, and showed she had the ability to excel.



Bethany Topping hones her skills by presenting a project at MidSun School (pictured) and at PUBS

Tradition continues as B.Ed. grad earns provincial teaching award

Alex Kilcommons (Bachelor of Education – Elementary 2017) is the latest St. Mary's graduate to receive an Edwin Parr Award in recognition of her achievements as a first-year teacher. Kilcommons, who teaches at Assumption School in Oyen, Alta., received the honour at a ceremony on May 17, 2018.

St. Mary's grads are perennially well represented among Edwin Parr nominees, and 2018 was no exception. Amelia Cracknell (St. Monica School), Rebecca Johnansen (St. Cyril School), Donna Nicole Landry (St. Damien School) and Iriel Jaroslavsky Rindlisbacher (St. Benedict School), all 2017 graduates, were nominated for the awards by their schools.

Edwin Parr Awards are presented to teachers across Alberta in recognition of superior teaching characterized by exceptional levels of student learning, exemplary commitment and the creation of strong relationships in the first year of teaching.

Alex Kilcommons (L) receives a 2018 Edwin Parr Award presented by Tricia Rolheiser, Principal of Assumption School



DISCOVER LEARN EXPERIENCE

Biology students immersed in on-site learning

As part of St. Mary's University's dynamic Travel Study course offerings, several Biology students travelled to the Bamfield Marine Science Centre on Vancouver Island, B.C., in February 2018. They explored the diversity of life forms in a series of tide pools, and collected a variety of data to understand the physical, chemical and biological processes underway. On-site learning opportunities such as this have a profound impact on students, who deepen their knowledge when they are able to see, touch and feel their subject matter in the real environment.



A St. Mary's student gets a hands-on look at marine life



St. Mary's Biology students hard at work to prepare for their trip to Bamfield



Exchange student
Christina Linner

German student has experience of a lifetime at St. Mary's

December 2017 was a bittersweet time for Christina Linner. While the German exchange student from Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt was happy to have her exams wrapping up, she was saddened knowing her four months of study at St. Mary's were almost over.

Working on a dual degree in English and Psychology in Germany, Christina completed Psychology courses at St. Mary's thanks to a new exchange agreement between St. Mary's and the Catholic University of Ingolstadt. She was able to capitalize on the opportunity to augment her education by taking Psychology classes not offered at her home university, while also benefiting from the experience of living in Calgary.

The smaller class sizes offered by St. Mary's initially attracted Christina, who was eager to learn more about Canadian post-secondary education. She also felt a smaller school like St. Mary's would help facilitate a smooth transition to studying in a different country.

It is the bonds forged with professors and classmates in this more personal learning environment that Christina says she will miss the most about her time and Canada. At the end of her time at St. Mary's, she returned home with course credits — and memories that will last a lifetime.

Weaving Words of Wisdom: Intergenerational Life Writing

The life stories and experiences of older adults are being brought to life through several arts-based channels, thanks to an innovative new partnership — one that reaffirms participants' connection to core humanity and is a reminder of people's similarities and fosters appreciation of their differences.

St. Mary's University and United Active Living (UAL) Fish Creek have created a collaborative life writing project entitled *Weaving Words of Wisdom: Intergenerational Life Writing* which aims to create a strong inter-generational community and capture the legacy of older adults.

Older adults from United Active Living Residences and the broader community joined together to form an advisory committee to shape and guide the project, through which members consider their perspectives on aging and what information they would like to share about their younger selves.

Creative Writing and Psychology students from St. Mary's University assumed the role of collaborative assistants, tasked with providing deep listening and creative input, and assisting with the production of written, performed or multi-media stories that share the legacy of seniors' lives. Students are mentored by English professor Dr. Jocelyn Williams.

During their time together, students and UAL participants forged true bonds and lifelong friendships were born, testament to the value in spending more time nurturing relationships and experiencing the joy that comes from them.



St. Mary's student Pae Veo (L) and United Active Living resident Ed Rewucki work together to share Ed's life story through the Intergenerational Life Writing project



St. Mary's students take in the beauty of the Vatican Museums



Pope Francis passed right by the St. Mary's contingent after his address

When in Rome

A year's worth of preparation, planning and research culminated in a 15-day trip of a lifetime for a group of 18 St. Mary's University students and professor Dr. Peter Baltutis. The trip was, in fact, a new course, Rome and Christian Spirituality, which was intentionally built around the city of Rome itself as the textbook, and ending with students immersed in all the "Eternal City" has to offer.

Building on monthly meetings to develop a strong group identity and cohesiveness, Baltutis customized every facet of the time in Rome, tailoring the trip to create a learning opportunity that enriched mind, spirit and body in countless ways.

The transformative experience was punctuated by an opportunity seldom offered: an after-hours private tour of the Vatican Museums made possible thanks to a St. Mary's benefactor who is a Patron of the Vatican Museums. Surrounded by the exquisite paintings of Raphael and in the hushed and awe-inspiring Sistine Chapel, students were elevated from being "tourists" and were able to spend time in quiet reflection to truly appreciate some of the world's most important and profoundly moving works of art.

Freedom to roam

St. Mary's student Jade Coultman has hearing loss and relies on closed captioning services for her studies. When she visits other countries, she usually has to work extra hard, relying on lip reading or social cues to keep up with what's going on around her. It can be exhausting and stressful.

Her trip to Rome, on the other hand, was liberating because, thanks to some creative thinking, she was able to experience everything her classmates did. Committed to inclusiveness, St. Mary's arranged for Karen Munro, a professional stenographer, to accompany the group on the trip. Reimagining cookie trays and backbraces to create portable desks and using Bluetooth technology, Munro captured everything for Jade and gave her the freedom to enjoy and absorb the experience on her own terms.

Because no one in Rome had seen such an approach before, the duo were trailblazers, attracting interest and awe wherever they went — and potentially helping to make the Eternal City a little more accessible for all.



Gathered in front of the Colosseum



St. Mary's students were in awe of all the amazing art and architecture

St. Mary's partnership with Ukraine grows stronger

By encouraging cross-cultural student visits or exchanges and developing relationships with institutions outside Canada, St. Mary's University expands teaching and learning horizons. This ensures graduates have the best preparation for future success in today's changing world — wherever their journeys may take them.

St. Mary's and Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) in Lviv, Ukraine, share a long-standing partnership. Both institutions pride themselves on celebrating their Catholic identity, with a particular focus on championing access to education and social justice. Together, the institutions advance research, foster remarkable student exchanges and share best practices for teaching, professional development and technology implementation.

In September 2017, Dr. Gerry Turcotte, President of St. Mary's, had the opportunity to travel to UCU to meet with Rector Fr. Bohdan Prach, to visit the impressive UCU campus and to re-sign the exchange agreement.

The trip was particularly meaningful because Dr. Turcotte was able to travel with members of the Owerko family from Calgary, who were instrumental in helping to fund the new St. Mary's Heritage Centre, and also had the opportunity to catch up with St. Mary's former Dean of Education, Dr. Linda Dudar and the five Ukrainian students who briefly called St. Mary's home while on their exchange. In a moving conversation, the students spoke of the positive impact Dr. Dudar and the St. Mary's faculty had on their lives.

Dr. Linda Dudar, former Dean of Education at St. Mary's, has an opportunity to reconnect with UCU exchange students who attended St. Mary's



Dr. Gerry Turcotte, President of St. Mary's University, and Father Bohdan Prach, Rector of Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine, re-sign the exchange agreement



Dr. Gerry Turcotte, President of St. Mary's University, and Dr. Linda Dudar, former Dean of Education at St. Mary's, meet with UCU representatives in Lviv in September 2017





UCU students Yulia Lebednyska (R) and Krystyna Yarema, who recently completed studies at St. Mary's, with President Gerry Turcotte

As part of the UCU partnership, St. Mary's students can complete part of their Bachelor of Education practicum in Ukraine, where they provide academic support, while learning from and participating in volunteer experiences that reinforce their commitment to children and youth. St. Mary's has the only Bachelor of Education degree in Western Canada designed specifically to prepare teachers for the Catholic school system, and three more St. Mary's students will attend UCU starting in October 2018.

Over the years, seven Ukrainian students have travelled to Calgary, and students Yulia Lebednyska and Krystyna Yarema recently completed their studies at St. Mary's.

The student exchanges have led to enduring friendships and deeper ties, building bonds that will enrich students' lives and careers. An annual UCU/St. Mary's fundraiser, held every year at St. Stephen's Protomartyr Church, raises funds to contribute to the ongoing sustainability of the exchanges and the partnership — ensuring this vital facet of international learning continues to be offered to St. Mary's and UCU students well into the future.

The Rimers of Eldritch take to the stage in riveting examination of the impact of lies

St. Mary's University Drama program capitalized on the uniqueness of the Heritage Centre performance space with its three-night presentation of *The Rimers of Eldritch* in March 2018. The Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Landford Wilson is a gripping story about a declining mining town in middle America whose inhabitants are frustrated with their lives but fearful of change. At its core, the play examines how lies can transform into truth and explores the blurred line between what happens, what we say happens, and what is remembered for years to come.



The small size of the Heritage Centre venue and the closeness between audience and cast lent itself well to creating the sense of the claustrophobic atmosphere in the town of Eldritch, and gave audience members an immersive experience. The student actors did a masterful job capturing the essence of their characters as the tension of the play built to the dramatic climax.

St. Mary's students perform Landford Wilson's award-winning play *The Rimers of Eldritch*

Darwin Day returns

Students of Dr. Scott Lovell's Biology 377 class and other members of the St. Mary's community were treated to a guest lecture by Dr. Stephanie Blais, Lecturer, Biology, in celebration of Charles Darwin, one of the most influential minds in biological sciences. Dr. Blais shared how palaeontologists identify transitional forms in fossil records and why these forms are, in fact, not "links" in some greater chain, but branches on an even greater "tree." The lecture offered students a different point of view on some of Darwin's theories as well as supporting evidence from Dr. Blais's own PhD work that highlighted the fact that the understanding of transitions in the fossil record has expanded greatly since Darwin's time.



Awards honour St. Mary's commitment to inclusivity

St. Mary's University is a leader among post-secondary institutions as a champion for providing a safe, supportive, accessible and inclusive environment for all students. These efforts were recognized twice during the past year, when the University was singled out for its efforts to help students overcome barriers to academic success.

The groundbreaking Humanities 101 program received the Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre of Calgary (DDRC) Award of Excellence, on Oct. 4, 2017, recognizing the program's ongoing success in helping to make Calgary a city where everyone belongs.

The 2017 Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities Award of Excellence – Education was presented to St. Mary's on Dec. 1, 2017, recognizing the significant contribution the University makes to a barrier-free and inclusive educational or training program.

St. Mary's believes all students deserve equal opportunities to thrive and grow, and faculty and staff collectively strive to create a barrier-free, inclusive community where people can overcome whatever obstacles stand in the way of their academic success.

Part of the St. Mary's fabric since 2003, Humanities 101 casts aside barriers to education faced by people from low-income circumstances, offering a safe, welcoming place where strength, courage and determination enable people to reach academic goals they may not have thought possible.

The annual Premier's Council Awards acknowledge initiatives and accomplishments of groups, businesses and organizations to develop barrier-free, inclusive communities within Alberta. KLM Captioning Services, which provides simultaneous close captioning to a student in every class session, sees firsthand how faculty and staff embrace students who require academic accommodations because of a permanent disability, and nominated the University for the award.



A recently formed Accessibility Committee, led by Bob Hann, Vice-President Student Services, will further sharpen the focus on inclusivity in the future.

St. Mary's advocate and Global News personality Linda Olsen joins St. Mary's University representatives Sabrina Buzzalino, Dr. Tara Hyland-Russell and Bob Hann at the presentation of the Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre of Calgary Award of Excellence reception.



Director of CLASS, Raphael De La Peña, poses with the Premier's Council Award of Excellence

Book launch, national panel focus on ending marginalization

The intersecting issues of mental health, violence, corrections, poverty and social justice took the spotlight on March 15, 2018, when a national panel of experts convened at St. Mary's University at a public event designed to facilitate dialogue about the systems that marginalize people and galvanize positive change.

Louise Bradley, President and CEO of the Mental Health Commission of Canada, moderated the panel discussion, which included national experts Howard Sapers, Independent Advisor on Corrections Reform to the Ontario Government; Senator Kim Pate, Senator and advocate for marginalized youth, men and women; Tim Richter, President and CEO of the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness; and Frank Cattoni, Executive Director of SORCe – a Collaboration.

Community members and agencies were invited to the event, which featured the launch of the book *From Cell to Sanity*, written

by Paul LaPointe with Susan Scott. The book chronicles LaPointe's life with undiagnosed bi-polar disorder, which drove him to many bizarre and desperate actions.



National Panel members (from l to r) Tim Richter, Louise Bradley, Howard Sapers and Frank Cattoni



The community gathers for St. Mary's Inspiring Conversations national panel discussion and book launch



The cover of Paul LaPointe's book From Cell to Sanity

Fostering wellness of the whole person

The mental well-being of St. Mary's students, faculty and staff is integral to their success in every endeavour and every aspect of life. The University's wellness strategy focuses on supporting mental health and in growing the capacity to understand and respond to concerns, issues and illnesses. Keeping the issue front and centre — and the conversations continuing — ensures St. Mary's is a safe and inclusive place for all.

St. Mary's first with Mental Health Literacy project

Launched in 2013, the Alberta Mental Health Literacy project, coordinated by Alberta Health Services, strives to increase understanding and reduce the stigma of mental health issues by providing resources and training for school staff. St. Mary's is the first post-secondary institution to participate in the project, and faculty and staff are moving towards becoming "Go-To Educators" who students can turn to in times of need.

Lightning Make Some Noise for Mental Health

St. Mary's University students from across the campus joined members of the Lightning athletics teams to take part in a campaign to help generate awareness for mental health issues. Make Some Noise for Mental Health is an Alberta Colleges Athletics Conference (ACAC) initiative to promote mental health awareness by helping to eliminate stigma and encourage conversation and open mindedness about mental health issues.



Volunteers at the Make Some Noise for Mental Health basketball games



Students take a much needed break to visit with dogs brought to campus by the Pet Access League of Calgary



Making a paws-itive difference

Exam time is typically a stressful time, so the Pet Access League (PALS) of Calgary's annual visit to St. Mary's is highly anticipated. On Dec. 7, 2017, the four-footed guests provided a welcome boost and helped ease end-of-semester tension. Research has shown pet therapy to be effective at improving mental health, as well as physical, social and emotional functioning, through the accepting, non-threatening and non-judgmental bond between people and animals.

Lightning Women strike gold — and make history

The St. Mary's Women's Basketball team took their play to new heights in 2017–18 — all the way to the top of the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) podium.

The determined squad beat the odds to claim the provincial title and the gold medal on March 3, 2018, topping the Medicine Hat Rattlers at the SAIT-hosted championships. Along the way to the final game, St. Mary's bested teams from far-larger institutions with far-deeper benches and far-greater funding. Playing out like a David vs. Goliath story — St. Mary's is the newest and smallest member of the ACAC — the team faced challenges that others might have seen as intimidating, using grit and strength of character to overcome adversity.

The victory reflected the accomplishments of a team with heart and a university with heart, according to President Gerry Turcotte, and it was also testament to the spirit and determination not only of student-athletes, but of the St. Mary's community itself, which has cheered on the team's every dribble, point shot and down-court pass.

Since joining the ACAC in 2013–14, St. Mary's has embraced its underdog status, turning a potential negative into a rallying positive and claiming back-to-back ACAC silvers in 2015–16 and 2016–17. Four players from the original squad were members of the gold-medal team, which was coached by Steve Shoultz.

While the group had been described as a "Cinderella Team," Shoultz and the team never doubted what they could accomplish. In the dressing room before the final championship game, they were confident they were about to take a special journey together.

The ACAC win earned the Women's Basketball team a berth in the Canadian Collegiate Athletics Association (CCAA) National Championships in Sackville, N.B., March 14–17, 2018, its second trip to the tourney and its first as Alberta champions.



Members of the St. Mary's Lightning Women's Basketball Team celebrate the first-ever ACAC gold medal in school history





Montana Romeril cuts a souvenir piece of netting after the ACAC championship game



Athletes of the Year



St. Mary's Lightning Women's Athlete of the Year, Montana Romeril



St. Mary's Lightning Men's Athlete of the Year, Cordell Miniffee

Runners were on track for success in first indoor season

Indoor Track debuted at St. Mary's University in 2017–18, complementing the men's and women's Cross-Country teams. A total of nine student-athletes took part in the inaugural indoor season, and for seven it was their first year of competition. The men's team finished 8th in the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) championships. First-year runner Tim Evans scored points in the 600m race and plans to return to the team next season. The women's team finished 7th in the ACAC championships, scoring points in the 4 x 400m relay. Rebecca Johnson had an impressive showing in her first-ever indoor track season and expects to return to competition next year.



The St. Mary's Cross-Country men's and women's teams welcomed the University's first year of competition in ACAC Indoor Track



Running to the nationals a first for St. Mary's women

Rebecca Johnson has run where no female Cross-Country athlete from St. Mary's has ever gone before — all the way to the national Canadian Colleges Athletic Association championships. An impressive achievement on its own, it's all the more so because 2017–18 was Johnson's very first year of varsity athletic competition. She finished in the top 10 in all her races and claimed 4th place at the provincial championships. The best result ever for a St. Mary's Cross-Country athlete, it earned her a place on the ACAC All-Conference team, itself another first for a St. Mary's runner. At the nationals in Blainville, Que., she placed 26th in a very competitive field.

HONOUR RESPECT CELEBRATE

Indigenous Graduation Ceremony celebrates academic, cultural journeys

Indigenous graduands and their families took part in a traditional Indigenous Graduation Ceremony at St. Mary's University on May 9, 2018, celebrating academic achievement, culture and heritage. Under the guidance of St. Mary's Elder Casey Eagle Speaker, Métis Elder Edmee Comstock and the Indigenous Advisory Council, the ceremony honoured the academic and spiritual journeys of six students.

Self-identifying First Nations graduands were presented with an Eagle feather at the ceremony and Métis students with a sash. These are important symbols of the students' learning, both in formal studies and spiritually through personal discoveries about their cultures.

The ceremony also featured a performance of the St. Mary's Honour Song by the Sorrel Rider Singers. The song, composed by Frank Turning Robe, was given to St. Mary's University in June 2017 during the Tipi Raising Ceremony on campus. In the spirit of reconciliation and action, the Honour Song was also sung at St. Mary's Convocation on May 11, 2018.



The Sorrel Rider Singers perform the St. Mary's Honour Song



Charity Tegler stands on a buffalo robe to receive her Métis sash at the Indigenous Graduation Ceremony



Danielle Alexander receives a traditional eagle feather, honouring her academic and spiritual journey



St. Mary's community members in attendance at the Indigenous Graduation ceremony



Participants in the Indigenous Knowledge Field Course



Students learned to re-establish a connection to the land during their time at the Field Course

'How do I know what I know?'

Six students taking part in the Indigenous Knowledge Field Course, Aug. 20–24, 2018, had a unique, immersive, community-focused and real opportunity to learn about the land they live on and how they are connected to it and to other people. Camping at the Sandy McNabb Group Campsite, supported and led by an instructor, instructor support and two volunteers, the group learned about what it means to live close in a small community where they interact with others and the land; where they are with the land instead of being mere visitors on it. The aim was to inspire students to think differently about what they know and how they know it, to consider what it means to be part of something bigger than themselves, and to see how Indigenous ways of knowing are relational and involve all senses: heart, body, mind and spirit. Considering the question, "How do I know what I know?" was a recurring theme, which the students considered throughout their experience.

Inaugural exhibit in Mauro Art Gallery showcases Indigenous artists

The first contemporary exhibition held in St. Mary's new Mauro Art Gallery used art to convey many messages, not the least of which was the University's continuing commitment to take meaningful action toward reconciliation.

Aisinna'kiiks was conceived in partnership with and guided by Elders, presenting the land's untold story prior to European contact, well before conflict between neighbouring tribes and European settlement began. The exhibited works brought a resonance from the past into the present, offering a visual representation of what the heart wants but which cannot be said in words. It was intended to be a living exhibition, to be held in the hearts of visitors wherever they may go.

Artists whose works were displayed came to the campus to discuss their pieces, giving patrons the opportunity to hear and learn from the personal journeys of each individual artist, and the thoughts and processes behind the pieces.



Voices of Treaty 7 offers Indigenous perspective on treaty-making

St. Mary's University has become a place for people to learn about Indigenous voices and, as importantly, a safe place in which to do so. The Indigenous Voices series which launched in Fall 2017 offered four distinct opportunities in 2017–18 to broaden understanding of present-day attitudes, perspectives and decision-making.

"Voices of Treaty 7" was one such gathering, in addition to "Local Stories from This Land", "Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action" and "Inspired Stories of Hope". In "Voices of Treaty 7", stories about the formation of this landmark treaty were shared and heard by a diverse audience. It offered a different perspective on what making this agreement meant for Indigenous peoples, and what it means today.

Few Canadians have a deep understanding of the treaty-making process, and the series countered the common narrative that Indigenous peoples ceded their land to the Crown, giving it to settlers. By expanding knowledge about what it means, from the Indigenous standpoint, to make a treaty, participants deepened knowledge of their own history.

"Indigenous Voices" was designed as a way to collectively hear stories and educate, and to gain a greater sense of interconnectedness. It is also a significant step in helping lead St. Mary's in the right direction towards reconciliation and ensuring the University is a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Every step St. Mary's takes to offer more Indigenous knowledge, more Indigenous voices, more ceremony and more spaces for inviting the community in to have these kinds of conversations is a step along the path to reconciliation — one in which people learn alongside each other and journey together.



Elder Casey Eagle Speaker



Book by Dorothy First Rider and Sarah Carter on display during the "Voices of Treaty 7" series



Tipi brings St. Mary's community together

Under the guidance of Anita Eagle Bear, members of the St. Mary's community gathered for three days to paint the liner of the St. Mary's University Tipi. Traditionally done by the women and other female-identifying members of the tribe, this sacred and exciting endeavour was open to all members of the St. Mary's community who wished to contribute.

Hearts of service, gratitude and goodness come together on President's Volunteer Team



The first year of St. Mary's University President's Volunteer Team was nothing short of amazing!

More than 100 eager and enthusiastic St. Mary's students, faculty and staff showed what's possible when a community united strives to make a positive difference in people's lives. Working alongside those in need through coordinated charitable volunteer efforts increases the scope and impact on the community.

Authentic interactions change the lives of vulnerable individuals and volunteers alike, reflecting the heart of St. Mary's: social justice and commitment to the community. For students, volunteering is a wonderful opportunity to learn by engaging directly with people who are being helped, including those who are hungry or homeless, settling into their new country, or caring for their critically ill children. Listening to others' stories enriches learning and insight, and is a powerful force for change in students' own lives.

The President's Volunteer Team is coordinated by the President's Office together with Campus Ministry. Going forward, the President's Volunteer team will build on this first year of service as it seeks out new opportunities.



*PVT volunteer
Sophie Turcotte*



*A PVT member spending
time with a furry friend*





Grateful for the opportunity to make a difference

The “magic” of the President’s Volunteer Team happens when volunteers give the simple gift of their time and presence. By taking part in real, meaningful activities and interactions, members improve the lives of others — and are, themselves, changed by the experience.

President’s Volunteer Team members make a real and tangible difference in lives and communities. In the past year alone, the team:

- helped build a home for a deserving family with Habitat for Humanity;
- raised money to support WE Day Alberta, to build and support schools in Kenya and China;
- cooked and served meals to the hungry at The Mustard Seed;
- sent over 100 volunteers to the Our Lady Queen of Peace Ranch Christmas party to help make the day special for children and their families;
- walked to support The Coldest Night of the Year, which raises money for the homeless; and
- cooked a nutritious and delicious meal for families the Ronald McDonald House.



PVT members singing during Our Lady Queen of Peace Ranch Christmas party



Dr. Gerry Turcotte with a PVT member while volunteering for Habitat for Humanity

Farewell to colleagues who led by example

St. Mary's has been deeply blessed throughout its history with the presence of gifted people of great passion and energy. These leading lights have been profoundly important in building our Catholic Intellectual Tradition to shape a vibrant community of teaching and learning. Over the past year, the University reluctantly said good-bye to two visionaries.

Michael Duggan, Chair of Catholic Studies

Inspiring the St. Mary's community to know more and do more good

St. Mary's is exceptionally fortunate to have had Dr. Michael Duggan as a vibrant and foundational part of the learning community for many years, leading the University in countless ways through his deep knowledge, and wise and humble example. Not only is Michael an internationally respected and renowned biblical scholar, he is also a respected, effective and caring teacher both in and out of the classroom.

Many at St. Mary's acknowledge Michael's critical role as a mentor in social justice, leading through dialogue and action, and always honouring and respecting the divine within every person. The entire St. Mary's community has been made better by Michael's presence, his love for social justice, and his unwavering belief in the importance and value of a liberal arts education. His words and deeds will continue to inspire thought and reflection, living within the University and sustaining it into the future.

Nancy Quan, Campus Ministry

Modelling the difference heart and faith can make in the world

Nancy Quan joined St. Mary's University in January 2011 and since then has played a critical role in supporting staff, faculty and students here on campus, and often beyond. Nancy offered thoughtful and inclusive reflections at virtually every event, and reminding the University daily of the need to create hospitable spaces for friends and neighbours. She coordinated weekly Masses, was the star quarterback on the President's Volunteer Team, helping to reach those in need, and was a friend to many students, faculty and staff through good times and difficult times.

As a person of heart and faith, she has modelled for the entire St. Mary's University community what it means to believe in social justice and service, and helped our Catholic university to be a place of encounter and welcome.



Michael Duggan
Chair of Catholic Studies



Nancy Quan
Campus Ministry

An inspiring leader leaves an enduring legacy

St. Mary's University students, faculty and the wider community have benefited in countless ways from the wisdom, guidance and leadership of Dr. Michael Duggan, the University's inaugural CWL Chair for Catholic Studies, over the past 20 years. As he retired from the University, Dr. Duggan gave St. Mary's — and the wider Catholic community — a legacy gift in a public lecture excerpted here:

Foundations of a Catholic University

As a Catholic university, St. Mary's can make a unique contribution to community development in Alberta in the 21st century. ...

University and Catholic

... "Catholicity, like consciousness itself, is not static; it is not a fixed ideal. Rather it is an outflow of human awareness in relation to the surrounding world; it is like a connecting thread between the human person and the cosmos." From this perspective, Catholicity refers to the capacity of a person, society or institution to perceive that everyone and everything is related to every other person and reality. Hence a "Catholic" university forges connections among peoples, cultures and disciplines of study.

Vatican II: Personalism, Conscience and Freedom

The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (*Gaudium et Spes*) reoriented the theological enterprise to focus on the actual life experiences of human beings. ...

Personalism ... highlight[s] affectivity as the energy that generates solidarity between the church and all people. Feelings of joy, hope, grief, and anguish are the experiences that bond the church with everyone else, beginning with those who are on the margins of society. Individuals may have different thoughts but they have common feelings. They may be separated by creeds but they are united by shared intuitions. Ideologies divide but love unites...

[Conscience is] the source of being and action that defines each person and shapes the world. ... Conscience is the common ground for all people, believers and atheists alike. ... This is why a Catholic university is blessed when its faculty and student body reflect the religious pluralism of society at large. The university is a meeting of equals who embody truth from a full spectrum of convictions related to belief and unbelief.

... [F]reedom of inquiry is essential to the discovery of truth. Such statements certify the centrality of academic freedom to a Catholic university.

Pope Francis: A New Humanism at the Margins of Society

... Pope Francis grounded the new humanism in the Renaissance tradition ... [T]he new humanism focuses on Jesus of Nazareth. ... Every person who is marginalized, betrayed, and abused is the face of the new humanism. ...

Pope Francis emphasizes that this new humanism is embodied in action rather than in speculation or art alone. Relationships are the fabric of this humanism. ... The artisan of this humanism is every person who becomes an agent of encounter and dialogue, especially with people who suffer social marginalization.

... [The university is] a place of encounter and dialogue that is a meeting ground for people of all traditions and no tradition. Their purpose is to enhance the lives of everyone beginning with people on the margins of society. The Catholic tradition compels St. Mary's University to be such an environment.



Dr. Michael Duggan was awarded the prestigious **St. Mary's University Order of Excellence** at 2018 Convocation, honouring his extraordinary impact on the University, research, pedagogical expertise and relations with the wider community, nationally and internationally.

Donor generosity reflected across the St. Mary's campus

The roots of St. Mary's University run deeply throughout the wider community, and thanks to donors, supporters and visionaries, the campus is an outstanding environment in which to teach, learn and work. The University gratefully acknowledged the support of families and individuals passionate about the success of St. Mary's and its students.

Living history: The Mauro Gallery

The breathtaking Mauro Gallery within St. Mary's University's historic Water Tower opened on April 9, 2018. Thanks to a generous donation from Tom and Debra Mauro, an amazing project first envisioned by President Gerry Turcotte almost six years ago has been realized — and both the space and its future potential are nothing short of stunning.

Through their gift, the Mauros, who have supported a variety of campus initiatives and innovative new spaces for students and the community, have transformed the 100-year-old St. Mary's icon into a new, relevant teaching, learning and community-building space. The Water Tower was restored and renovated with careful attention to preserving its heritage and character — including showcasing the original water pump as the room's centrepiece, directly below a skylit interior roof — while simultaneously incorporating appropriate lighting, audio and video technology to enable the space to be used for a multitude of functions.

The Mauro Gallery is destined to be a prime meeting space at the heart of the campus, capturing and reflecting the very best of St. Mary's University, as well as the vision, social justice and arts passions of the Mauros themselves.



A new sign welcomes visitors to the Mauro Art Gallery



Tom and Debra Mauro





A plaque detailing the Mauro Family's commitment to St. Mary's University



A piece of art hanging on the wall inside the Mauro Gallery



Frank and Jeanne Vetsch in the beautiful Vetsch Courtyard

An inspiring place: the Vetsch Family Courtyard

The Vetsch family has a long history of leadership and support for St. Mary's, their generosity and goodwill helping to create inspiring spaces like the new Heritage Centre, among many others. On Oct. 25, 2017, the Vetsch Family Courtyard was unveiled to honour and recognize the family's remarkable commitment to St. Mary's and the many investments they have made in transforming the teaching and learning environment. On behalf of all students, Jaden Baragar, BA alumna and second-year BEd student, expressed heartfelt gratitude by thanking the family for "believing in us, for supporting us, and for shaping our futures" through ongoing support. The Vetsch Family Courtyard makes the most of St. Mary's beautiful outdoor environment, a welcome place for quiet contemplation or to connect with others.

A new chapter: the Gerry and Anna Maier Special Collections Reading Room

The grand re-opening of St. Basil's Library on Nov. 17, 2017 was punctuated by the ribbon cutting for the Gerry and Anna Maier Special Collections Reading Room. Thanks to the Maiers and countless others, the University has been able to acquire important resources that would not have been possible.

The Maiers' gifts have shown their leadership and support for faith and learning, and have had a profound impact on the quality of intellectual life at St. Mary's. St. Basil's Library is the University's academic heart, the trusted place where intellectual and cultural resources can be accessed to support research, collaboration and discovery by students, family and the wider community alike. A major donation from the Maiers has created a rich collaborative work space for students, including access to rare holdings and special collections. Among them is Vols. 1–12 of *The Christians: Their First Two Thousand Years*, which the Maiers also donated to St. Mary's.



Tara Hyland-Russell stands beside a University treasure. A lead gift from the Maiers in 2012 enabled St. Mary's to acquire a Heritage Edition of the Saint John's Bible, which is now housed in the Gerry and Anna Maier Special Collections Reading Room



GATHER JOIN COMMUNITY

A year in the life of St. Mary's University



Inspiring words

Margot Micallef, President of Oliver Capital Partners and Co-Founder of Gabriella's Kitchen, was the keynote speaker at the President's Dinner, sharing her story about overcoming personal challenges and captivating the audience.



Thérèse Takacs, Vice-President Advancement, enjoys a conversation with a dinner guest



Supporting St. Mary's

More than 200 supporters, donors and community members gathered for the 23rd annual St. Mary's University President's Dinner on March 8, 2018, a highly anticipated event on the University calendar.



Bob Hann, Vice-President Student Services, speaks with a guest



A proud president

President Gerry Turcotte thanked guests at the President's Dinner for their support in creating invaluable learning opportunities for St. Mary's students, and for having a profound impact on lives and the community.

Stampede Royalty

St. Mary's Student and Stampede Princess Jessica Wilson poses with Dr. Gerry Turcotte and other dignitaries at the annual St. Mary's University Stampede Breakfast held on July 13, 2018.



Ride for Recovery

It was a sight to behold, some 150 plus motorcycles descending on a location at roughly the same time, but that was the scene at St. Mary's University on Saturday, August 25 when the 10th Annual 12 Stop Ride for Recovery Motorcycle Rally made its way to the St. Mary's campus. The Ride for Recovery is a family friendly motorcycle ride designed to increase awareness of the many ways that addiction destroys lives while showing that there is a solution to the disease of addiction through recovery.

Ghost Tour

St. Mary's 7th Annual Ghost Tour welcomed 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, wove together historical stories with haunting encounters to bring life to this amazing event.



St. Mary's in the Media





Golf Tournament

Members of the St. Mary's community braved inclement weather to participate in the 17th annual St. Mary's University Golf Tournament once again held at the beautiful Silvertip Resort in Canmore, Alberta, with all proceeds going towards helping improve the student experience at St. Mary's.

Action!

The world premiere of *The Ghosts of St. Mary's*, was celebrated on Nov. 6, 2017. This short film, starring several St. Mary's students, was created in partnership with Calgary-based Pyramid Productions as part of a summer course that gives students a unique, first-hand perspective of new-media and the processes required to create a film.



Which Way to Go?

There's no reason to get lost on the St. Mary's campus now that there is wayfinding signage everywhere! These signs and a brand new campus map were installed to help guide visitors and students alike through the many sights and stops of St. Mary's University.



St. Mary's in the Media

Grateful for donors who enable students to live their passion

St. Mary's Bachelor of Education – (Elementary) student Charity Tegler received Indigenous Ancestry Awards in 2017 and 2018, awards made possible through the generosity of donors and which were instrumental in her being able to fulfill a dream to become a teacher.

During her six years at St. Mary's, Charity volunteered and took part in many Indigenous initiatives. Learning more about the history and legacy of colonization of Indigenous Peoples was at the forefront of her teaching degree. Her academic and community achievements were celebrated when she received a Métis sash at the St. Mary's Indigenous Graduation Ceremony on May 11, 2018. Days later, she wore the sash proudly over her graduation gown at Convocation.

Shortly after graduation, Charity was hired by the Calgary Board of Education, which appreciated the quality of her degree and her involvement in Indigenous initiatives at St. Mary's. In addition to her CBE role, Charity also substitute teaches at Piitoayis Family School in Inglewood.

Charity says that each class and each group of students feeds her soul and shows her what a difference a teacher can make in one life, and she cherishes the opportunity to help children grow and develop in their personal knowledge.



Charity Tegler

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart! I now have a fantastic career and future ahead of me as a result of your generosity. My children and I have ... sacrificed a lot during my education in order to better our future, and your support has made it all possible. We are all truly appreciative. I hope to return the favour later in life when I am established."



Donation recognizes impact of Humanities 101

A generous investment from the Jarislowsky Fraser Partners Foundation for the landmark Humanities 101 program is helping to alleviate some of the financial burden faced by students, by assisting with tuition and registration, as well as child care, transportation and program materials. Humanities 101 makes free, university-level courses accessible to people who have previously experienced barriers to study such as poverty, abuse, addiction, homelessness and interruptions to their education. The donation reflects the Foundation's mission to promote human rights and sustainable development through education. St. Mary's is extraordinarily grateful for this significant vote of confidence in students in the Humanities 101 program, and in helping to nurture passion and provide a healthy and supportive environment where students can experience the excitement and benefits of a post-secondary education.



Alumna's life transformed by a sign from above

They say fate works in mysterious ways. For alumna Ruth Medrano (Bachelor of Education – Elementary 2016), it was a series of unfortunate circumstances that led her to St. Mary's University and helped her realize her true calling in life.

Following a major car accident, Medrano was on a C-Train when she looked up and saw a St. Mary's ad — both literally and spiritually a sign from above. There is no doubt in her mind that she was led to St. Mary's through the power of God's love and guidance, discovering the University at a time in her life when she needed it most.

Her life has been forever changed by enrolling in the BEd – Elementary program, an experience that was intellectually and spiritually transformational. Professors and supportive classmates strengthened and enlightened Ruth, enabling her to thrive in an environment where she was free to open her eyes to the many philosophical, political and personal viewpoints a person can have.

Upon graduating, she was offered a position by the Calgary Catholic School District, testament to the strength and reputation of the St. Mary's program. Further confirmation came after her first year of teaching, when her school's administrators nominated her for an Edwin Parr Award, presented to outstanding first-year teachers. She has now been teaching for three years and is thankful for everything that happened to lead her to St. Mary's — and to a career that rewards her on a deep, personal level.



St. Mary's alumna and Edwin Parr nominee Ruth Medrano



St. Mary's alumna Erin McQuitty



St. Mary's University alumni

Engaging alumni in the life of St. Mary's

St. Mary's University alumni are loyal supporters, advocates and role models. To help strengthen the bond between institution and alumni, the University hosted an alumni reunion event on June 21, 2018, at Born Colorado Brewery, owned and operated by St. Mary's alumna Erin McQuitty and her husband, Kyle Nolan.



Bidding adieu to a leader focused on financial success

Debbie Osiowy, Vice-President Business and Finance, has played a key role in helping St. Mary's University build a solid financial foundation. She retired recently, after more than 15 years on the leadership team. She was with St. Mary's since it was just a fledgling institution through to its dynamic position today as Alberta's fastest-growing university. Debbie played a key role in developing rigorous financial processes, leading facilities, insurance and IT developments, and overseeing operations and key capital projects. She was a trusted advocate for the University and for the Board of Governors.

Debbie was instrumental in St. Mary's government reporting and also raised significant funds for the University through her steering of applications for public and government grants. She and her husband, Kevin, also supported St. Mary's through attendance at virtually all major events and community partnerships.



Debbie Osiowy

Welcome to St. Mary's new Vice-President Finance and CFO

Greg McIntomny joined St. Mary's University in September 2018 as Vice-President of Finance and CFO, bringing a wealth of experience garnered as a Chief Financial Officer in the corporate world to the position.

A Chartered Accountant with a Master of Business Administration, Greg has overseen accounting, finance, IT, human resources and marketing functions in previous positions. He has also previously taught Finance and Accounting and regards an understanding of Accounting, in particular, as a pivotal life skill.

At St. Mary's, he will provide support for business and financial planning, ensuring leadership has the information needed to make informed strategic decisions. As a member of the executive team, he will help the University continue on its growth trajectory and leadership in post-secondary education, helping to advance the St. Mary's brand within the community.



Greg McIntomny

Pride of place on full display at bright new Bookstore

The most dramatic physical transformation on the St. Mary's campus last year was at the Bookstore, which moved into a completely renovated space formerly occupied by the Glassblowers Studio. Exposed brick, dramatic lighting and a new lift system for increased access all contribute to a lively, bright, energized space that meets a variety of student needs. With this increased visibility and popularity, students will be even more inspired to wear their university's name on branded clothing.

Because the Bookstore and Tim's Bistro were both relocated to the LeFort Centre, a designated historical building, all work was done under close guidance and direction of a Provincial Heritage Advisor to ensure that all historical elements were redeveloped correctly to maintain the look and the feel of the original building.



St. Mary's new bookstore is a vibrant hub of student activity



Cooking up a great place to share a meal and good conversation

It may not be the heart of the campus, but to many a student or faculty member, it just may be the lifeblood. Last year, Tim's Bistro moved into the location previously occupied by the campus bookstore. This space was completely transformed to increase natural light, and to provide seating and plenty of room for the St. Mary's community to congregate and share a beverage or meal. The Bistro's bright, open concept layout in the LeFort Centre has quickly become a popular go-to space on campus.



St. Basil's Hall expands

Two new, much-needed classrooms opened in St. Basil's Hall in September 2018, thanks to a significant and essential donation from the Basilian Fathers. This generosity did more than make the facility expansion and update possible — it enabled St. Mary's to accept a second cohort of students in the high-demand Bachelor of Education program. The program is the only one in Western Canada focused on developing teachers specifically for the Catholic school system. With their most-recent gift, the Basilian Fathers build on their initial investment to create St. Basil's Hall on the University campus more than 19 years ago. The beautiful Hall is situated at the heart of the campus and is home to the St. Mary's Library.



Two additional classrooms being added on to St. Basil's Hall.

A roaring success: restoration of the water tower receives a Calgary Lion Award

The inspired renovation of the nearly 100-year-old water tower at St. Mary's University has been recognized as a symbol of Calgary's heritage and as a modern-day beacon for inclusion and community. At a standing-room only ceremony held at the historic Palace Theatre in downtown Calgary, the University was awarded a prestigious Lion Award for Resource Conservation from the Calgary Heritage Authority.

The restoration and conservation work of the rare 80-foot wooden structure ensures this landmark is preserved for the appreciation and enjoyment of current and future generations. Redevelopment of the tower's interior — refinishing the original wood paneling, providing heating and meticulous rebuilding of two pumps once used to circulate groundwater — has transformed the space into a boutique art gallery: the Mauro Gallery, named in recognition of a major donation from Tom and Debra Mauro.



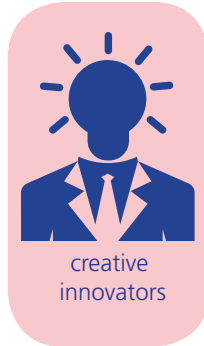
Dr. Gerry Turcotte, Jason Mauro and Emilia Mauro are accepting the Lion Award on behalf of St. Mary's. Pam Heard, Chair of the Calgary Heritage Authority, is presenting the award



St. Mary's University at a glance

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



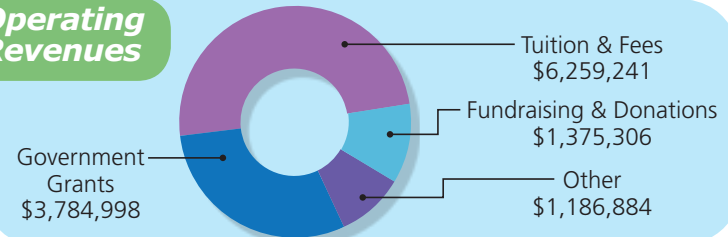
Colours



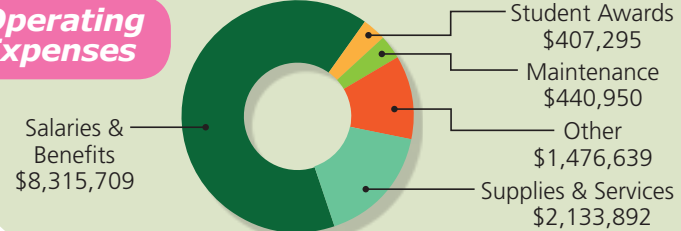
Snapshot 2017-18



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

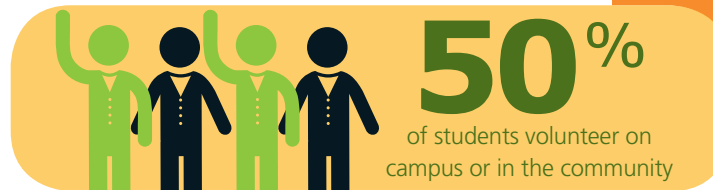
Graduate Certificate of Catholic Educational Leadership (GCCEL) equips teachers and administrations in religious education

One Admission, Two Degrees

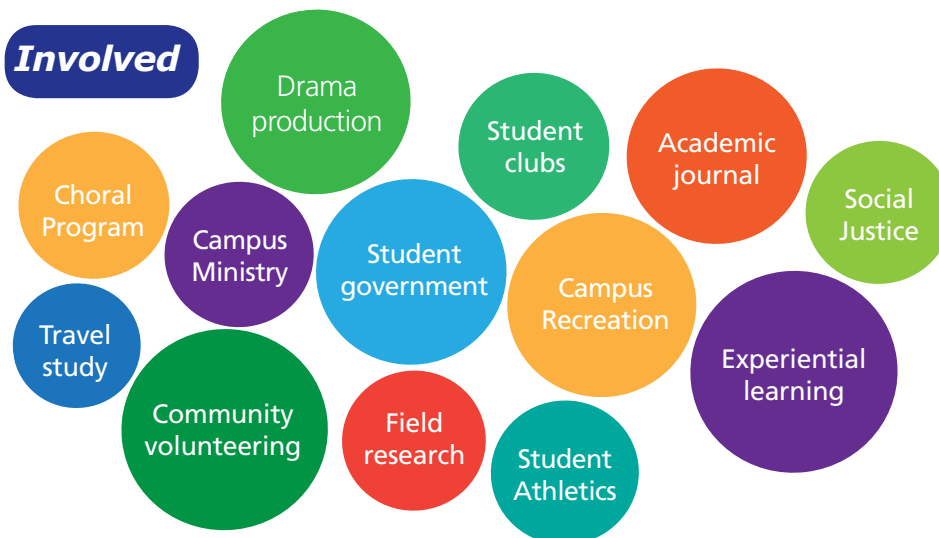
BA or BSc + BEd

A pathway for St. Mary's students into both a four-year BA or BSc AND the two-year BEd (Elementary) After-Degree

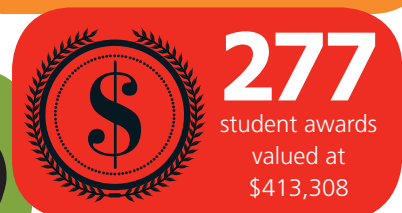
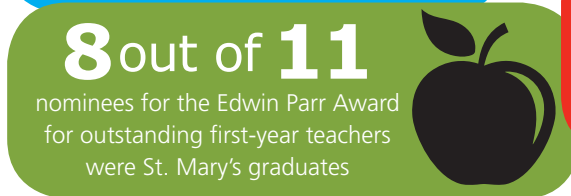
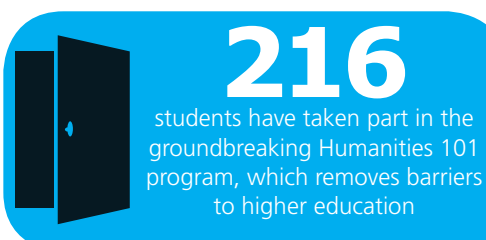
Vibrant student life



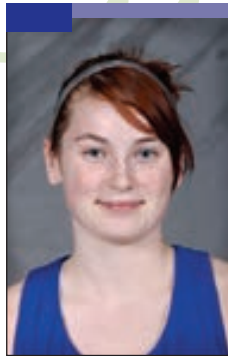
Involved



Student success



The St. Mary's University community was profoundly saddened by the passing of three dear members of the University family during the past year. Their lives touched many and their loss was deeply mourned. St. Mary's is richer for having people of such character and dedication in its midst, and celebrates lives lived with heart and joy.



Brittney Rayson-Stevenson

Alumna, future educator

Brittney Rayson-Stevenson graduated from St. Mary's in 2016 (BA –Concentration in General Studies) and was a student in the Bachelor of Education program when she passed away unexpectedly after a short illness. Passionate about special needs education, she was fulfilling her lifelong dream of becoming a teacher and, at the time of her passing, was weeks away from graduating and planned to work with special needs students in rural Alberta. Brittney was cherished for her ready smile and humour — and her love of all things Disney — and for her deep friendships and determined commitment to learning. She cheered on her peers and enlivened classes with spirit and joy. Brittney passed away on April 11, 2018, at the age of 24.



Colleen Lori Rowe

Colleague, friend

For almost 20 years, Colleen Lori Rowe was an integral member of the St. Mary's Library family, her dedication, loyalty and warm smile treasured by students, staff and faculty alike. Her sense of humour and readiness to share a wealth of knowledge contributed to a joyful, collegial environment where all felt welcome. Colleen was an avid gardener, admired for her "green thumb," and had a special place in heart for her beloved cats. She joyfully experienced different cultures around the world on the many cruises she and her husband, Cornell, took to ancient cultural sites. Colleen passed away on March 23, 2018, at the age of 46.



Father Rupert MacLellan

Pastor, avid supporter

Father Rupert MacLellan passed away on August 4, 2018, at the Father Lacombe Care Centre. Whether he was on campus for a lecture or regularly attending Mass on Wednesdays, Father MacLellan was an ardent supporter of St. Mary's and a cherished pastor, mentor and friend who loved nothing more than meeting with students. His life and legacy will be fondly remembered by everyone whose life he impacted. Memorial tributes to the Father Rupert MacLellan Scholarship Fund at St. Mary's University Calgary will continue his legacy at the University.

2018 Honorary Fellow instrumental in shaping St. Mary's University

Bernie Constantin, MAEd

St. Mary's University awards the distinction of Honorary Fellow, the University's highest honour, annually at Convocation. Honorary Fellows are inspiring individuals whose uncommon vision, boundless energy and indefatigable spirit reinforce the Catholic Intellectual Tradition of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and who have been instrumental in shaping St. Mary's into the leading institution it is today.

Bernie Constantin, the 2018 Honorary Fellow, holds a special place in St. Mary's history.

She was the first full-time employee, serving at the pivotal point in time when the foundation of St. Mary's was being laid. It is fair to say that without her efforts over a remarkable 14 years, the University would not exist today.

The formation of St. Mary's University began with visionaries who wanted to establish a post-secondary institution in Calgary to emphasize better teacher training for Catholic educators and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. Turning that vision into reality fell to a small group of extremely dedicated and indefatigable individuals.

Bernie was key among them. She became the Executive Assistant to Dr. Bob Gall in January 1996. Working from Diocese offices on 17th Avenue SW, she also assisted with tracking course registrations and payments for part-time courses that were taught in rented classrooms at the University of Calgary.

Six months into her job, Dr. David Lawless became President and, for the next three years, Bernie worked tirelessly alongside him to expand course offerings to university equivalents, and to facilitate the move to the current campus in 1999. She was Secretary to the Board of Governors, kept the books, did payroll, issued sessional and administrative employment contracts and much, much more. Monsignor Joseph LeFort perhaps said it best, describing her as "the lady who knows how to do everything!"

Bernie continued as Executive Assistant to the President when Dr. Terry Downey became President in 1999. By 2002, St. Mary's had grown significantly, reaching the point where some of her previous duties were delegated to other administrative staff. She continued to be responsible for human resources, benefits and payroll as the number of employees increases from four to 95. She also took on managing the bookstore until a full-time manager was hired.

Bernie retired from St. Mary's on April 1, 2010, leaving a legacy of teaching and learning that touches the lives of every student and faculty member. The University is humbled and proud to welcome Bernie Constantin to the rights and privileges accorded to an Honorary Fellow of St. Mary's University.



Bernie Constantin's Honorary Fellow Award certificate



Bernie Constantin addresses the St. Mary's community at the 2018 Convocation

Celebrating success!

Convocation 2018 showcases the very best of St. Mary's University

The St. Albert the Great Parish was bursting with pride, joy and celebration on Friday, May 11, 2018, when 188 St. Mary's University graduates shared a proud moment with family and friends at Convocation. The ceremony was held at the Parish for the first time, to enable the growing number of graduates to share this most special occasion with those who are dear to their hearts. Her Honour, The Honourable Lois Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, attended, presenting the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Social Studies Education Student Award to Devin O'Brien (B.Ed.). Graduates honoured for their achievements included St. Mary's University Star Award recipients Jaden Baragar (B.Ed.) and Jacqueline Shaw (BA), the St Mary's Gold Medal to Victoria Anderson (BA) for the highest cumulative grade point average in a Bachelor of Arts or Science program, and Valedictorian Kristine Lehew (BA).



University Star Award recipient Jaden Baragar with Vice-President Student Services Bob Hann at the 2018 St. Mary's Convocation



St. Mary's community members fill St. Albert the Great Parish for the 2018 Convocation



She said **yes!**

Haley Himsl and Justin Fry will have an extra reason to look back fondly on Convocation 2018 — it was also the day they got engaged.

Justin and Haley have been vital members of St. Mary's University, lending their voices to the choir, attending masses, volunteering at events and, in Justin's case, serving on the Student Legislative Council. They attended classes, shared lunches and even went to Halloween parties in admittedly cheesy couple costumes.

Because the couple has been woven into the fabric of St. Mary's and the University played an integral part in their relationship, they said it only felt right to share this special moment with friends, family, classmates and the entire St. Mary's community, creating wonderful memories for all. **Congratulations!**





Members of the 2018 St. Mary's University graduating class



A customized cap on display at the St. Mary's Convocation

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 St. Mary's University

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