



Defining Excellence
2019 Report to Community



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Defining excellence at St. Mary's University

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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 definition of excellence

The title of this year's *Report to Community* is "Defining Excellence" and you will see, as you read through this remarkable record of the University's accomplishments over the last year, that we meditate creatively on this idea of definitions. In particular, we identify key words that specifically apply to institutions of higher education like ours.

For example, the dictionary defines a university as "an educational institution designed for instruction, examination, or both, of students in many branches of advanced learning, conferring degrees in various faculties." The etymology of the word is traced back to the Latin *universitas*, meaning "the whole," by which we understand, in part, that the role of a university is to make the world understandable, but also to prepare its students to understand and to become a valuable part of the world at large. A university is a community: not of identical, but of independent, deep, generous and analytical thinkers.

When we speak of Catholic education in particular, it is important to note that universities were born from the Church and to give Bologna and Oxford as examples of the foundational role the Church played in the development of higher education. Cardinal John Henry Newman's influential *The Idea of a University* also argued for the value of knowledge for knowledge's sake and reminds us that a university had a duty to give students "perfection of the intellect ... the clear, calm, accurate vision and comprehension of all things."

A great number of Catholic colleges and universities — in Canada and throughout the world — are liberal arts based. Any work that intelligently makes the case for a comprehensive understanding of such knowledge will strike an important note for those wishing to support the liberal arts model of education at a time when these values are undervalued and, ironically, when they are more needed and more in demand than ever.

The reality for St. Mary's University is that our enrolments are strong and our students are thriving. As a smaller institution, we focus on our core strength, which is to provide the very finest academic education delivered in small class sizes that ensure our students are never just a number. We boast that our students are in the class, in the lab and in the field with their professor. And with an average class size of 25, in programs that emphasize the applicability of the Arts, Sciences and Education in the real world, and with a focus on social justice and volunteering, we are confident that our students truly can flourish in mind, body and spirit — and define excellence.



Gerry Turcotte, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor

Chancellor's message



*Most Reverend William T. McGrattan
Chancellor*

St. Mary's University in Calgary has offered a strong Catholic educational experience to students for over 30 years. It has evolved as an institution of higher learning which has been guided by the Catholic intellectual tradition and has focused on the formation of the whole person — mind, body, and spirit. St. Mary's University combines the rich Catholic intellectual and spiritual vision of life and offers students, staff, faculty and the community at large, pathways to pursue the true, the good and the beautiful.

In 2018, Pope Francis, when speaking to the Gravissimum Educationis Foundation, said that Catholic universities "need to give a soul to the global world through an intellectual and moral formation that can support the good things that globalization brings and correct the harmful ones." He went on to say that there are three essential criteria for a Catholic university to be a formative institution for young people today and a prophetic voice for the future — the faithfulness of its Catholic identity, the quality of its teaching and learning, and the relentless pursuit to serve the common good.

As a Catholic institution, St. Mary's is committed to this essential dialogue of faith and reason and thus prepares its students to respond generously with their gifts and talents to God's call. Whatever their path, St. Mary's University graduates will enter the global world as faithful, committed, and generous life-long learners who seek to serve others through personal and communal goals which further the common good of society.

The university is dedicated to the liberal arts, humanities and sciences, and the social teachings of the Church as lived out in service, social justice, and the open respectful dialogue which serves the common good. During their time of study at the university, students will pursue excellence in their area of academic study and seek to place the gifts entrusted to them at the service of God's Kingdom on earth.

It is an honour to support the academic community of St. Mary's University which continues to pursue justice, truth, beauty, goodness, and the inspiring qualities of the Catholic intellectual tradition.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William T. McGrattan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Above the signature, there is a small cross symbol.

Board of Governors' message

St. Mary's University continues to provide a unique environment for learning, with dedicated faculty and staff, to help students realize their place in the world. We are proud of our students' achievements, and are excited to provide even more offerings for our future students.

In 2018, St. Mary's University successfully completed the first year of a new five-year Strategic Plan. Through four core strategic priorities — People First, Academic Excellence, Celebrating Our Identity, and, Building For Growth — St. Mary's enhances our welcoming community, connects our strong Liberal Arts program to diverse, successful career paths, and expands our liberal arts, social justice and Catholic studies initiatives. Many of the activities that have defined the success of the first year of the Strategic Plan are evident in the pages of this report. These accomplishments position St. Mary's for continued success to meet and exceed the goals laid out by the Strategic Plan in the years ahead.

St. Mary's University is a contemporary definition of the value of a liberal arts based Catholic education in our world today and a living example of the excellence of the Catholic intellectual tradition. St. Mary's has earned its reputation as a successful and growing post-secondary institution that contributes to our community with a vibrant campus and graduates who are compassionate, critical thinkers who apply their faith, knowledge and skills to make the world a better place. St. Mary's honours these traditions and they continue to guide our strategic planning as we envision the future for this university.

As I conclude my service as Chair of St. Mary's Board of Governors, I'd like to take this opportunity to offer my gratitude for the privilege of this experience. One way to define success at St. Mary's is by the quality of its volunteer leadership. It has been my privilege to serve on the Board of Governors with dedicated and committed volunteers who contribute their time, wisdom and unique skills as an offering of Catholic service and leadership to this university. I look forward, in the years ahead, to watching St. Mary's reach new milestones and add new facets of achievement to its thriving definition of success.



Don Verdonck
Chair & Treasurer, Board of Governors

St. Mary's University Board of Governors

as at June 2019

Most Reverend William T. McGrattan	Chancellor
Mr. Don Verdonck	Chair & Treasurer
Ms. Georgine Ulmer	Vice-Chair
Dr. Scott Morrison	Chancellor's Designate
Dr. Gerry Turcotte	President & Vice-Chancellor
Dr. Luke Bresky	Faculty Representative
Mr. Chris Kibwana	President, Student Legislative Council
Mr. Adam Bowen	Administrative Staff Representative
Mr. Michael D. Rooney	Alumni Representative
Most Reverend Gregory Kerr-Wilson	Ecumenical Representative
Mr. Devin Elkin	Community Advisory Council Representative

Members-at-Large

Mr. Larry Day

Mr. Lee Funke

Mr. Roberto Geremia

Mr. Paul Valentine

Ms. Rosanne Hill Blaisdell

Ms. Mary Comeau

Dr. Michelle Gagnon

Ms. Debra Mauro

Ms. Cindy Provost

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



Members of the St. Mary's University Board of Governors, in front from left to right: Oxana Digodi, Kim Bourque, Don Verdonck, Dr. Gerry Turcotte, Georgine Ulmer, Most Reverend William T. McGrattan, Rosanne Hill Blaisdell.

Back row: Paul Valentine, Dr. Luke Bresky, Dr. Tara Hyland-Russell, Larry Day, Devin Elkin, Adam Bowen, Mary Comeau, Dr. Scott Morrison, Thérèse Takacs.



Leadership message



*Dr. Tara Hyland-Russell
Vice-President Academic*

The launch of a comprehensive marketing campaign — Defining Success: Dynamic Words — also the theme of this year's report, marks an integrated approach to recruitment, marketing, and the continued success of the University as these two key portfolios collaborate on the institution's strategic vision. Together we are focusing on developing, supporting and enhancing initiatives and programs that contribute to a welcoming, inclusive and innovative environment for students, staff, faculty and community at St. Mary's.

The development of St. Mary's new five year Academic Plan was a key focus in 2018-19. The Academic Plan maps the next stage of St. Mary's evolution and growth through delivery of new programs that build on the existing foundation. A collaborative and consultative process with key stakeholders including students, staff, faculty and community partners was key to the generation of this exciting plan for St. Mary's future. Two new faculty hires in 2018 in the areas of Psychology and Education support continued growth in those areas and the BEd (Secondary) program proposa — currently under final review with the government, with the implementation goal of Fall 2020.

One of our key initiatives this year has been to increase our capacity, based on our first strategic pillar, "People First." Leadership training for senior executive, academic leaders, Managers and Directors has built a strong foundation of skills and common language that we will use to build on in future training. Increasing need for data collection and analysis is being supported by a new Office of Institutional Research. We reached a new milestone with our participation in two large-scale national surveys for the first time that provide crucial information on student needs and participation in post-secondary education at St. Mary's University.

In keeping with our initiative to increase our capacity, the department of Information Technology has played a pivotal role in launching new initiatives that will position the university to handle the demands of the community. The implementation of the new Student Information System, Power Campus, is now almost complete and will improve efficiency for the administration staff, foster better communication with students and improve network security.

From annual events such as the St. Mary's Golf Tournament to on-campus events such as the unveiling of the Homeless Jesus statue this past May, to preparations for the 25th anniversary of the President's Dinner featuring Paul Brandt and everything in between, community life aligns with the goals of the Strategic Plan to bring together campus and community in support and celebration of St. Mary's University.



*Ms. Thérèse Takacs
Vice-President
Advancement &
Campus Services*

Tara Hyland-Russell,
Vice President Academic

Thérèse Takacs,
Vice President Advancement & Campus Services

lead

[lĕd] verb

1. To show the way to by going in advance
2. To play a principal or guiding role in
3. To inspire the conduct of

Special message from MLA Richard Gotfried

St. Mary's was pleased to have MLA Richard Gotfried take part in the University's annual Stampede Breakfast

It is with pride and great pleasure that I write my inaugural message in St. Mary's University's 2019 Report to Community.

As the elected representative for the constituency of Calgary-Fish Creek, I am blessed to have Calgary's only deep-south post-secondary campus within constituency boundaries. As the spiritual and academic heart of Alberta's largest urban provincial park, I have come to witness first hand St. Mary's commitment to thoughtful stewardship of the land. It is wonderful to see the great care your institution takes in celebrating the area's rich and unique history of Indigenous culture, European settlement and pioneer spirit.

St. Mary's University has much to be proud of — an executive team, administration, faculty and staff that work tirelessly on behalf of students to provide the best learning experience possible, while broadly serving over 1/3 of Calgary's population living south of Anderson Road.

As the City of Calgary continues to expand, St. Mary's University will continue to hold a unique position as a beacon of opportunity, a springboard for academic excellence and a pillar of foundational spirituality in the community. Your historical water tower stands tall as an iconic reminder that just as water was and continues to be the source of life, so too is lifelong education.

Seeking truth and knowledge enlightens our mind, expands our horizons, and provides continued opportunities for personal and professional growth. St. Mary's University has my heartfelt appreciation and enthusiastic support in providing quality, affordable and accessible education for Albertans from all walks of life for generations to come.



Richard Gotfried, MLA, Calgary-Fish Creek, with members of the Student Legislative Council.

Get to know St. Mary's

St. Mary's University is well positioned to thrive in this current climate of rapid global change and challenge. Unique and different, it brings together the very best of all aspects of learning — in mind, body and spirit — to enable students to develop their gifts, realize their potential and contribute to a better world.

St. Mary's is a liberal arts university

As a liberal arts university, St. Mary's focuses on cultivating the critical, creative and curious mind; it teaches people how to think rather than dictating what they ought to think. It seeks to provide a breadth of knowledge and depth of understanding across disciplines and methods, and is by its very nature collaborative and interdisciplinary. It cultivates clear thinking and effective communication while instilling a process of ongoing questioning and discernment that furthers the ability to solve problems. At its best, the liberal arts university produces graduates with a love of learning who are teachable and trainable, curious and creative, and from whom new ideas emerge. Graduates become active citizens ready and eager to participate in the life of their community and the wider world.

St. Mary's is a Catholic university

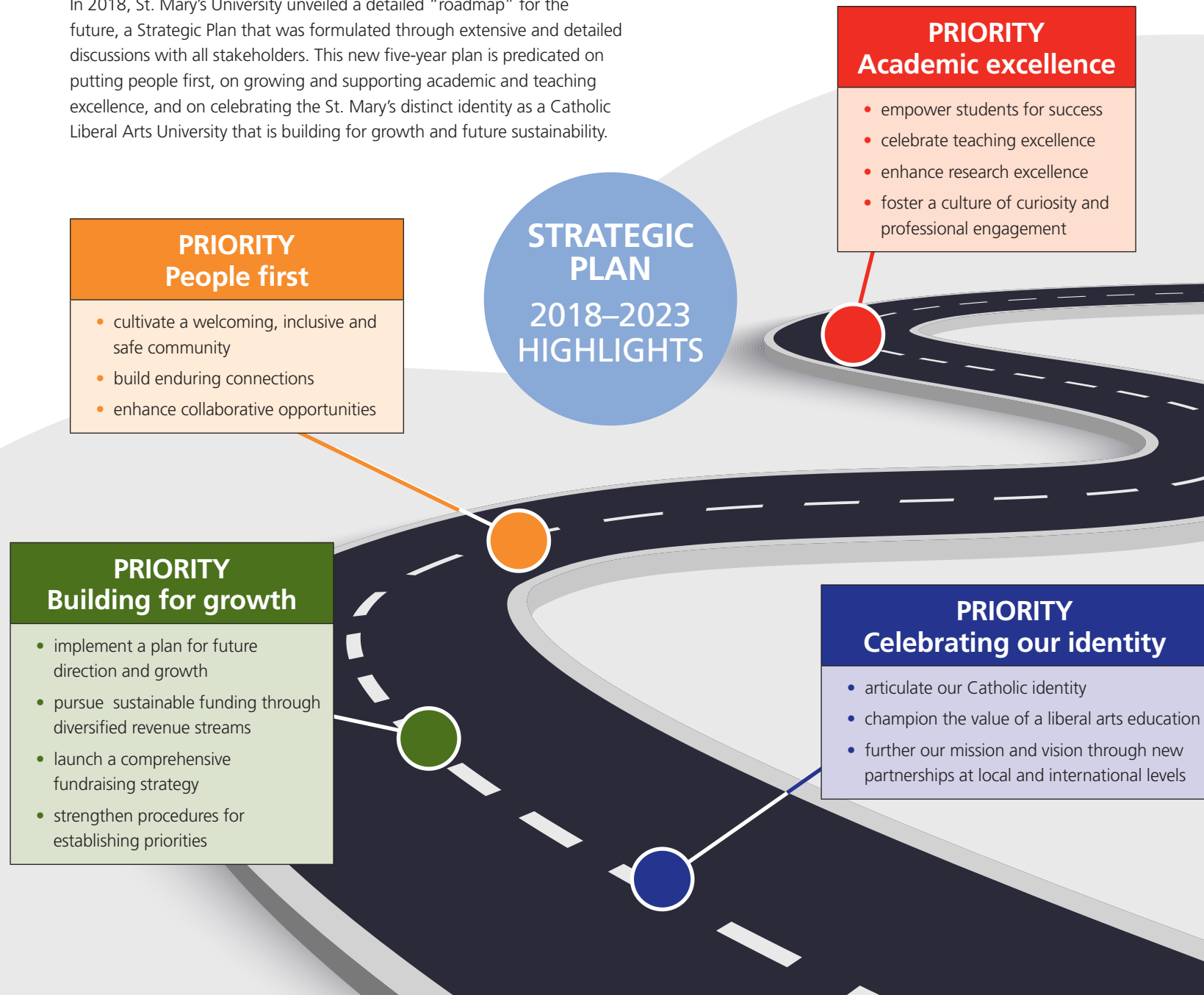
St. Mary's is rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition, which holds that the search for truth is enriched by sensitivity to the ethical and spiritual dimensions of life, while also recognizing that faith itself must be informed by intelligence. The Catholic intellectual tradition resists the temptation to compartmentalize knowledge and experience, and is committed to the formation of the whole person. It seeks to create thoughtful and compassionate citizens committed to justice and able to respond sensitively and creatively to changing social needs and cultural realities.

St. Mary's balances Catholic identity while embracing diversity and welcoming all

St. Mary's is an open and welcoming community to all, which is an extension of its identity as a Catholic university. It is conscious of God working in each person's life, recognizing the dignity of the individual as a unique creation and revelation of the divine. Because all persons are created in the likeness and image of God, all persons are to be treated with dignity and respect. Discrimination on any grounds has no place in a Catholic university. St. Mary's welcomes all to enter into conversation, learn from experience and, in the process, more fully understand themselves. Such conversations are essential in an increasingly diverse, multicultural society and interconnected world.

Strategic plan a roadmap for St. Mary's future

In 2018, St. Mary's University unveiled a detailed "roadmap" for the future, a Strategic Plan that was formulated through extensive and detailed discussions with all stakeholders. This new five-year plan is predicated on putting people first, on growing and supporting academic and teaching excellence, and on celebrating the St. Mary's distinct identity as a Catholic Liberal Arts University that is building for growth and future sustainability.



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.

 critical and strategic thinkers	 effective communicators
 collaborators	 compassionate citizens
 creative innovators	 consider moral and ethical implications

Snapshot 2018–19



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.



Mascot

Zeus



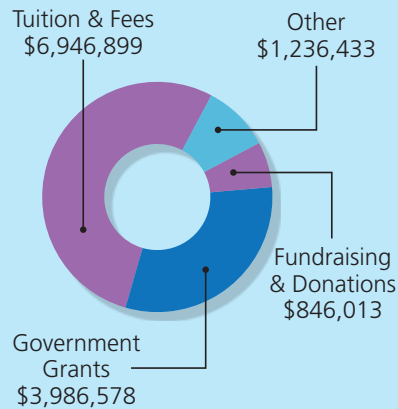
Logo

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.

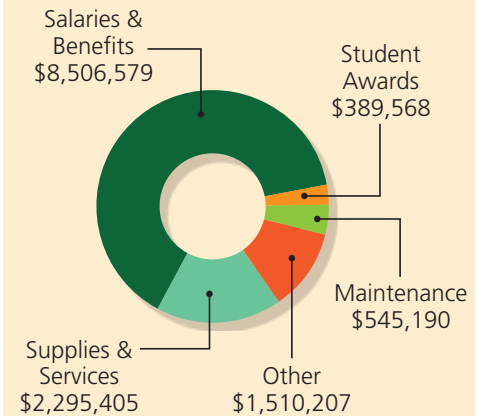
Colours



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, Social Justice & Catholic Studies

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

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

One Admission, Two Degrees

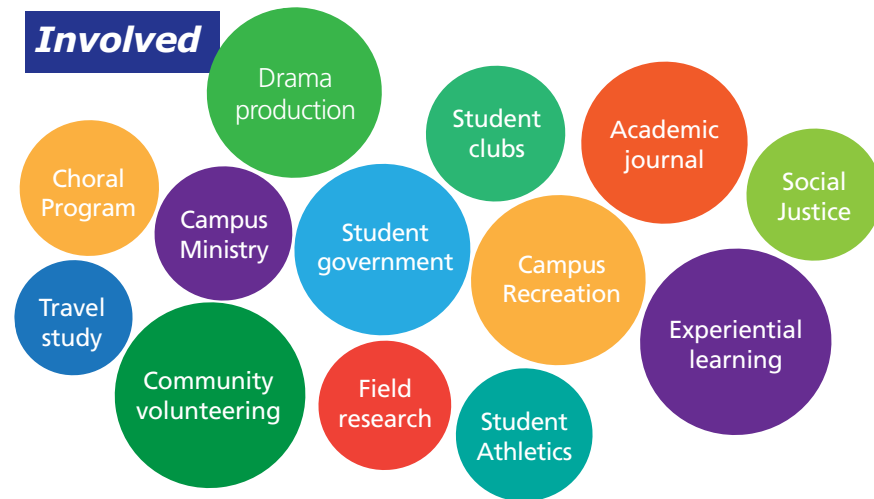
BA or BSc + BEd

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

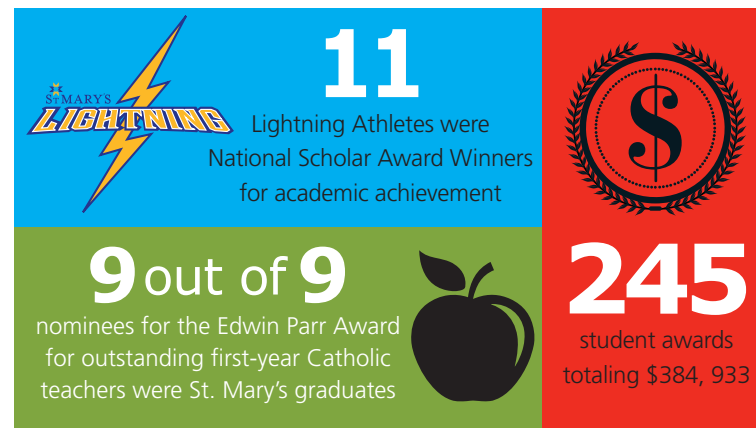
Vibrant student life



Involved



Student success



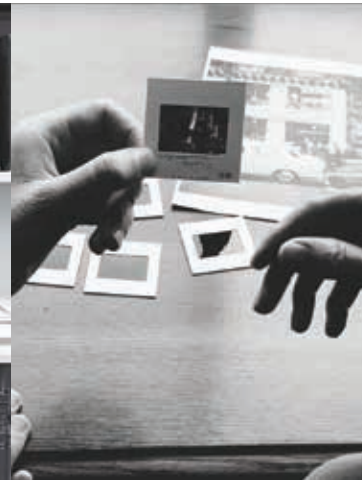
Students and neighbours weave words of wisdom

What started as a government-funded collaborative project between St. Mary's University students and campus neighbours from United Active Living (UAL) has grown into a foundationally impactful relationship that has produced a truly one-of-a-kind keepsake.

Whether sharing walks with dogs or a cup of tea, or posing for portraits in the sun, *Weaving Words of Wisdom: Intergenerational Life Writing*, brought students together with residents of UAL to capture their legacy through a life-writing project of shared stories, which this year resulted in both an art exhibition and a publication.

Dr. Jocelyn Williams, English Professor and student mentor, guides the project that fosters relationships, social understanding and cultural renewal — and which are testaments to the hope and possibility that are sometimes difficult to recognize in society.

Pairing younger and older adults in generous and voluntary friendships proves that empathetic communication, love and respect can preserve histories, engage the present and secure a future of hospitality and exchange. Participants will continue to enrich each others' lives long after the project ends.



1. Undergo natural development by increasing in size and changing physically; progress to maturity
2. Become larger or greater over a period of time
3. To become more advanced or developed



Artwork spans generations

The Mauro Gallery — which officially opened in 2018 and preserves the rich history of St. Mary's treasured water tower — mirrored the efforts and intentions of the Weaving Words of Wisdom project. It was the perfect venue for displaying the intergenerational artwork that grew out of the book.

The portraits and paintings exhibited in the Gallery were extensions of the storytelling among the students and older adults. Like the gallery itself, the artwork reflected stories that effect change and everlasting relationships — both the exhibit and the restoration of the water tower were made possible by the generosity and care of big-hearted people in the community.

Learning abounds in beautiful Belize

Five weeks of intense preparation — learning to identify 102 species of birds and a total of almost as many mammal, amphibian, reptile, fish, invertebrate and plant species — culminated in the experience of a lifetime for nine Bachelor of Science – Biology students who travelled to Belize for a week in February 2019.

In their Tropical Ecology and Biodiversity course, students visited tropic savannahs, mangroves, rivers, jungles, a cave and Mayan ruins, and snorkelled on the reef. To deepen their knowledge of the ecosystems, flora, fauna and culture of the country, as part of a group research project they recorded all the animals and plants they saw.

A hands-on learning experience like this — which also included how to mist-net (capture and release) birds and

bats, and assess the health of a tropical stream — offers deeper and richer insights into biodiversity and ecology by enabling students to see places, habitats, plants and animals that many have seen only in books.

The international trip is offered every second year in the program. In alternating years, students spend a week at the Bamfield Marine Science Centre on Vancouver Island, B.C., immersing themselves in on-site marine biology.

Both opportunities reflect the strengths of St. Mary's Bachelor of Science – Biology program, which offers students hands-on lab exercises, access to natural places to collect and analyze real-world data, and an opportunity to work closely with a faculty member to conduct independent, original research for their final-year capstone project.



Spotting species

All that advance preparation paid off! Students put their knowledge to the test in Belize, identifying the many species they saw. In seven days, they tallied an impressive:

- 152 bird species
- 8 mammal species
- 9 amphibians/reptiles
- 75 marine vertebrates/invertebrates
- 22 plant species

dis·cov·er

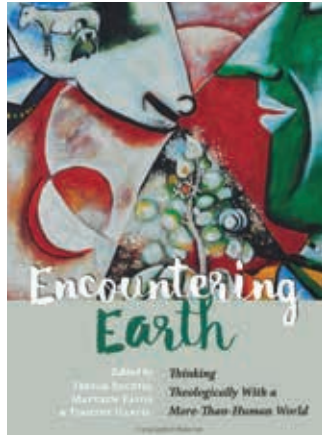
[dī-skūv'ər] *verb*

1. To notice or learn, especially by making an effort
2. To learn about or encounter for the first time; realize
3. To find after study or search



Sharing knowledge unleashes its power

By presenting at leading conferences, writing articles in respected journals, offering expert comment for print and broadcast media, authoring and editing books and chapters, and a host of other scholarly activities, St. Mary's University helps spread knowledge. When what is learned through research and in classrooms is shared with a wider audience, knowledge is transformed into decisions and actions that improve lives and communities — at home and around the world. Following are highlights of some of the many contributions made in 2018–19.



Encountering an expressive Earth

In *Encountering Earth: Thinking Theologically With a More-Than-Human World*, Timothy Harvie (Associate Professor of Philosophy and Ethics) and co-editors Trevor Bechtel and Matthew Eaton have created the first scholarly work of its kind: a compilation of personal

narratives of encounter with the non-human world. The book explores places and animals that demand reflection and, arguably, make theology possible. Among the many essays are those in which theologians listen to horses, rats, snakes, cats, dogs and the Earth itself, which become new voices demanding a response. The essays suggest that what is said theologically represents not only human ideas superimposed onto the natural world, but flow from an expressive Earth.

Presentations, publications

Luke Bresky "Revisiting Universal Emancipation: Reformist Etiquette" at the American Political Fictions Symposium, Knoxville, Tenn.

Catherine Broomfield, Keith Calihoo, Tara Hyland-Russell, Michelle Scott, Sarah Twomey "Grief, Loss, and Conciliation: Are we Ready Yet for (Re)Conciliation? Seeking Healing Medicine through the Arts for Traumatized Indigenous Youth and Learners" position paper, SSHRC Connection Grant and Development of Indigenous Research

Jennifer Garrison "Mankind and the Masculine Pleasures of Penance" article in *Exemplaria*.

Gary Grothman, D.J. Isaak "Apodibus confusus in Fish Creek Provincial Park, Alberta, Canada" at the 14th International Symposium on Tardigrada, Denmark

Linda Henderson "Recipe for Success: A Technique to Enhance Student Performance on Essay Questions" at the Pacific Sociological Association, Oakland, Calif.

Michael Macleod "The Political Economy of Corporate Social Responsibility: Business Power & Accountability in Canada and the United States" the Prairie Political Science Association, Banff

Carolyn Salomons "Such designs as were righteous in themselves and resolutely conducted: Isabel, history, and mythmaking" article in *Mito e historia en la televisión y el cine español*

Corinne Syrnyk "Knowing nurture: Experiences of teaching assistants for children with SEBD" article in *British Journal of Special Education*

Gerry Turcotte *Big Things: Ordinary Thoughts in Extraordinary Times*

Jocelyn Williams "Poetry as Preventative Medicine for Teen Mental Health" at the Alberta Teachers' Convention, Calgary

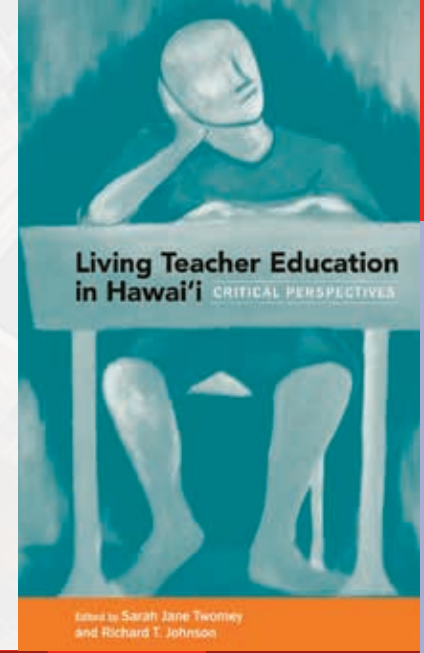
learn
[lûrn] verb

1. To gain knowledge of or skill in through study, instruction or experience
2. To become aware or informed of; find out
3. To gain by experience, exposure to example, or the like



Educating educators

In *Living Teacher Education in Hawai'i: Critical Perspectives*, Dr. Sarah Twomey (Professor and Dean of Education) and co-editor Richard T. Johnson offer insights for teachers and teacher educators who are addressing the challenges inherent in practicing social justice in diverse school communities. The editors rely on their own experiences in classrooms and schools in Hawai'i to give insight into current realities. Through six narratives, they explore issues including Indigenous methods and pedagogy, autoethnographic approaches for studying the teacher experience, multilingual paradigms for teacher training, performative inquiry in becoming a teacher, women as leaders in education and Native Hawaiian drama-driven storytelling as lived curriculum. The collection includes the perspectives of experienced teacher educators who are wise, creative and critical in their grasp of current practices.



All aboard for rail safety!

Several St. Mary's University B.Ed. students had a unique opportunity to keep children safe around railroad tracks by transforming what they've been learning in their program into real-world advice with real-life consequences. The students served as consultants for CP Rail, providing feedback on an educational video game, RailSense, which is being developed by the railway

and Strut Creative to teach children the importance of rail safety. The B.Ed. students were uniquely positioned to provide insights because their knowledge and perspective about what would draw and capture the attention of children could be translated into what likely would and wouldn't work in the video. That helped the company — and in the future will help keep children safe.



St. Mary's University Dean of Education Dr. Sarah Twomey (middle) with representatives from CP Rail, Strut Creative, Calgary Police Services and St. Mary's University students who were involved in the testing of the RailSense project.

Award-winning docs inspire conversations



St. Mary's ongoing Inspiring Conversations series continued to ignite community dialogue with

the screening of two thought-provoking films, *Spettacolo* and *Marwencol*, on Oct. 11 and 12, 2018, respectively. Both featured an introduction and conversation with Producer Christina Shellen, who led a discussion about the transformative possibilities of art.

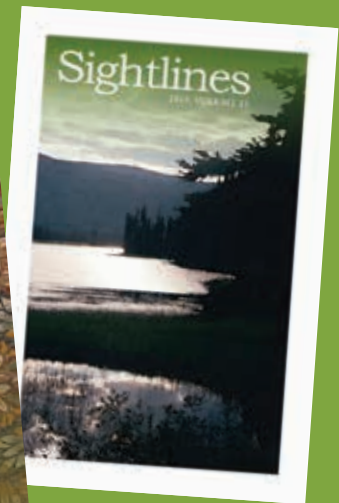
The charming and thoughtful *Spettacolo* takes the audience to Monticchiello, a Tuscan town that puts on an annual play dramatizing and assessing events that have impacted the village.

Marwencol tells the story of artist Mark Hogancamp who, after a near-death beating, created a miniature, fictional Second World War Belgian town that became the site of profound therapy and healing, as well as a widely admired art project. The film has won more than 25 awards, and most recently inspired the feature film *Welcome to Marwen*, starring Steve Carell.



Showcasing artistic, academic writing

Two highly anticipated annual publications featuring the very best of students' scholarly and creative writing were launched at a community event on Nov. 2, 2018. *The Attic*, *St. Mary's Journal of Undergraduate Papers*, showcases the best papers produced by students in programs across the University during the academic year. *Sightlines*, published by the St. Mary's University Literary Guild, celebrates the University's artistic side, featuring poetry, short-fiction, screenplays, book excerpts, children's literature and more.



con·nect

[kə'nekt] verb

1. Bring together or into contact so that a real or notional link is established
2. Unite or associate with others in relationships etc.
3. Establish a rapport based on common interests

A class and a glass: Profs in the Pub

Knowledge was on tap and sharing it was the order of the day as St. Mary's popular Prof in the Pub! series returned to Dixon's Public House in 2018–19. The Calgary community was invited to informal presentations and lively conversations hosted by a trio of faculty.

Dr. Tim Harvie, Associate Professor, Philosophy and Ethics, kicked off the series on Nov. 23, 2018, speaking on "Animals and our Natural Home: An Ethics for the Future," exploring what it means for people to recognize themselves as animals, and for a future that must be shared with other living beings.

Dr. Peter Doherty, Associate Professor, Psychology and Family Studies, looked at "Grief in the Fast Lane" on Feb. 7, 2019, using his current research on forgiveness and resilience as the basis for a talk about the connection between unsuccessful forgiveness and unresolved grief.

Dr. Leonid Braverman, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Mathematics and Physics, wrapped up the series with "To Infinity and Beyond: How Mathematicians Tamed Infinity," briefly exploring Zeno's paradoxes and Georg Cantor's theory of infinite sets — no math expertise required!



Good-bye and hello from Ukraine

St. Mary's University bid a fond farewell to two international students — Sofiia-Solomiia Furtak and Bohdana Kunikeyvych — in the spring. The two came to Calgary as part of a formal academic, research and cultural exchange agreement between Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine, and St. Mary's University, which gives students from both schools the opportunity to live and learn abroad.



The UCU students had been on campus since January 2019, immersing themselves in their Bachelor of Arts – Psychology program studies and in campus and city life. Both said the friendships made and the overall experience will have a lasting impact on their future academic studies and lives.



St. Mary's students also benefit from the exchange. Three students — Hamilton Baudner, Kristina Siroishka and

Crystal Gleeson — from the Bachelor of Education program went to UCU in Fall 2018. They were welcomed warmly and enthusiastically by students and peer teachers alike, and quickly embraced the opportunity to learn and experience all they could in the culturally rich city.

Setting the stage for success

Allison Lynch's steps onto the theatre stage began at St. Mary's University, where an initial few courses in drama grew into a professional acting career.

Lynch is a multi-talented performer. A songwriter and musician, she released her first solo album, *Skin & Flame*, in 2017, and has earned three prestigious Betty Mitchell Awards for her stage work, including Outstanding Actress in a Drama for 2016's *Romeo and Juliet* presented by The Shakespeare Company.

She relishes the intrinsic links between music and theatre. "What I love about both is that performing them live is a singular experience," she says. "It's such a high to take part in that huge exchange of energy with your audience."

"A live performance asks both parties, performer and audience, to be fully present in that moment and that can be a healing, restorative, life-changing thing."

Those talents have come together in Lynch's myriad roles as an actor, composer, sound designer and musical director with almost all of Calgary's major theatre companies. She has also sung with the Malaysian Symphony Orchestra in a musical, and with the Winnipeg and Victoria Symphonies.

Lynch credits St. Mary's Professor Marilyn Potts — whom she fondly calls "Pottsy" — for having a profound impact on finding life's perfect path. "She is one of the most inspiring people in my life and I strive to be more like her every day. She made everything possible for me. Even things I didn't think were possible."

Enter, stage right

St. Mary's presented three theatre productions in 2018, a first for the Drama program, which usually mounts two annual shows. *A Walk in the Park* (a collective by first-year students), *Green Space* (written by second-year students and, for the first time, directed by a student) and *Cocktails at Pam's* showcased students' many talents. Fourth-year student Belanna Internoscia stepped into the spotlight for *Green Space*, taking on the challenging role of stage manager. "It's one thing to direct scenes from a play in class, but to be able to direct a full play is different," she says. "Exciting and challenging at the same time, and an amazing experience."

Exploring drama as a tool to promote well-being

Sepidar Yeganeh Farid graduated from St. Mary's University in 2015 with a BA — majoring in Psychology and minoring in Drama — and is now putting both to good use in her Master of Science studies.

Having worked previously in community service roles where she supported families, children and youth, as well as with the Calgary Catholic School District providing mental health services to immigrant families and students within the Intercultural Wellness team, Sepidar is pursuing an M.Sc. in Counselling Psychology at the University of Calgary. She plans to expand on the undergraduate thesis she completed at St. Mary's to further investigate drama as a tool in counselling psychology, as well as within immigrant populations.

Sepidar credits Marilyn Potts, former head of the Drama program at St. Mary's, as a mentor and guiding presence in her thespian pursuits, which have kept her more than busy. Landing a key role in *InVISIBLE* from Handsome Alice Theatre, a collective work that brought forth stories of women and became a very successful show in Calgary, she quickly became an advocate for actors of colour.

She followed that by being cast as Fatima in the ATP play *The New Canadian Curling Club*, which became one of the city's hottest productions with almost all of the 24 shows were sold out. For Sepidar, it was an epic experience and she was extremely proud to represent the Middle Eastern community in this role.

Sepidar visits St. Mary's often to share her knowledge and experience with Drama students, assist with theatre productions — and be a mentor for those thinking about pursuing their creative skills outside of their degree.



Looking forward to a successful production at the dress rehearsal for *Cocktails at Pam's*.

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



A student's best PAL

The St. Mary's University community once again welcomed some furry friends to campus on December 11, 2018 when the Pet Access League (PALS) stopped by to help ease some end-of-semester stresses. Pet therapy has shown to be effective at improving mental health, as well as physical, social and emotional functioning, through accepting, non-threatening bonds between people and animals.

Dinner with a difference

St. Mary's annual President's Dinner is highly anticipated and a highlight of the University's social and community calendar. The long-running event celebrated its 24th year on March 7, with more than 200 guests enjoying a sumptuous meal and inspiring conversation at Heritage Park. The dinner is an important way for the University to connect with and thank the wide community of support that is invaluable to the success of St. Mary's and its students.



Yahoo!

The 2019 St. Mary's University Stampede Breakfast was one for the record books. Nearly 3,000 community members came to celebrate, as did Alberta's Minister of Advanced Education, who spent more than three hours on campus enjoying the festivities.

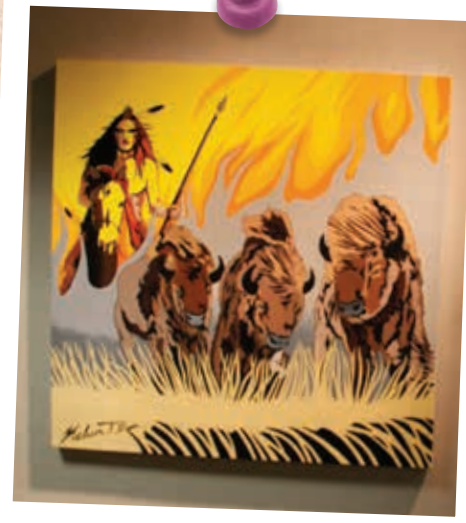
Honouring Humboldt

The St. Mary's community joined people across Canada and around the world on April 11, 2018, wearing hockey jerseys in memory of the members of the Humboldt Broncos hockey team who were killed and injured in a tragic bus accident.



Looking back; going forward

St. Mary's kicked off the 2018-19 academic year by celebrating the previous year's achievements — and looking forward to the year ahead at an event held on October 25.



Well Travelled

After stops at the Ranchmen's Club and the Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary, the Aisinna'kiiks art exhibit made its way back home to St. Mary's University in May and has been permanently installed in Owerko Hall.

Ghostly gathering

Alumni and students once again brought together stories and "haunting encounters" at St. Mary's annual Ghost Tour in October 2018, much to the delight of Calgarians. The campus's location is steeped in history and rich in lore, making it the ideal venue for weaving together past and present.



Teeing off for students

Duffers took to the greens at Silvertip Resort in Canmore on Aug. 29, 2019, playing 18 holes on a beautiful, mountain-view course — and under sunny skies. The 18th annual St. Mary's University Golf Tournament raises funds that support the quality of the student experience at the University.



Fuelling young minds

MP Kent Hehr visited St. Mary's on July 22, 2019, to announce a funding contribution to Science Alberta Foundation's MindFuel program. RoboGarden, a member of the MindFuel network, hosted a summer camp on the St. Mary's campus, offering its game-based approach to learning code.

St. Mary's in the Media

CATHOLIC REGISTER

St. Mary's University

St. Mary's University is a leading Catholic university in the heart of the Rocky Mountains. The university is a member of the Association of Catholic Universities in Canada (ACUC) and is a member of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC).

CBC NEWS

Coastline Museum Opens for Season

The Coastline Museum has opened for the season, offering visitors a chance to learn about the history of the region. The museum is located in the heart of the city and is a must-visit for anyone interested in the area's heritage.

THE CONVERSATION

Why Dean Kennedy's 'common sense' education platform gets it wrong

Dean Kennedy's education platform is based on common sense, but it is not common sense. It is a platform that is based on a narrow view of education and one that is not in the best interests of students.

rabble.ca

WE NEED KARL NEUBERG ON PARLIAMENTS HILL

Deconforming the public library

Public libraries are an essential part of our communities. They provide a space for learning, research, and social interaction. We need to ensure that they are not deconformed and that they continue to serve the needs of our communities.

CBC NEWS

Corbella: Murray McCann turns Field of Crosses into a charity so it will outlive him

Murray McCann has turned the Field of Crosses into a charity. This is a wonderful gesture that will ensure that the Field of Crosses continues to serve the needs of our communities for many years to come.

Global NEWS

Calgary expert gives insight on spiritual importance of Notre Dame

An expert from St. Mary's University provides insight into the spiritual importance of Notre Dame. The expert explains that Notre Dame is a place of great spiritual significance and one that is important to the community.

CBC NEWS

In Canada's new economy, a no-limit talent pipeline is crucial

In Canada's new economy, a no-limit talent pipeline is crucial. We need to ensure that we have a pipeline of talented individuals who are ready to enter the workforce and contribute to the economy.

CBC NEWS

Canadian Catholic women pass resolutions that show care for everyone

Canadian Catholic women have passed resolutions that show care for everyone. These resolutions are a testament to the faith and values of the Catholic Church and a commitment to the well-being of all people.

calgary

Focus on Leadership | Find big ideas, small class sizes at St. Mary's University

St. Mary's University focuses on leadership and provides small class sizes. This approach ensures that students receive a high-quality education and are prepared to lead in their careers.

CBC NEWS

Notre-Dame-de-la-Salette

Notre-Dame-de-la-Salette is a beautiful and historic site. It is a place of great spiritual significance and one that is important to the community. We need to ensure that it is preserved for future generations.

B.Ed. grads shine in awards nominations

St. Mary's University's Bachelor of Education – Elementary program has an outstanding reputation. That was abundantly evident in 2019: For the first time, every nominee from the Calgary Catholic School District for an annual Edwin Parr Teacher Award was a graduate of the St. Mary's Program, with Chelsea Very earning the prestigious award for this year.

The Edwin Parr Teacher Awards, presented by the Alberta School Boards Association, recognize outstanding first-year teachers. St. Mary's graduates typically shine in the awards, with the most recent spotlight on nine grads: Danielle Alexander (St. Henry School), Amanda Butler (St. John XXIII School), Erich Fitzsimmons (Blessed Cardinal Newman School), Ryleigh McKnight (St. Rupert School), Joshua Plumb (St. Sylvester School), Ashley Rosales (St. Martha School), Nick Soentgerath (Bishop Grandin High School), Chelsea Very (St. Brigid School) and Corey Young (St. John XXIII School).



Back Row: Gary Strother, Superintendent, Calgary Catholic School District, Ryleigh McKnight, Corey Young, Ashley Rosales, Nick Soentgerath, Chelsea Very, Joshua Plumb, Amanda Butler, Erich Fitzsimmons, Danielle Alexander; Seated: Dr. Paolina Seitz, Dr. Laurie Hill.

Student teachers inspire at WestCAST conference

Five students from St. Mary's University's B.Ed. – Elementary program expanded and shared their knowledge by participating in the Western Canadian Association for Student Teaching conference, Feb. 20–22, 2019. WestCAST brings together more than 600 education faculty and teacher education students from Canada's western provinces to engage in conversations on topics relevant to today's world of teaching. The St. Mary's students presented on Mortimer Adler's theories of reforming education and on the importance of and ways to bring physical activity into the classroom during curriculum instruction to supplement and enhance student learning. The students said that taking part in WestCAST contributed to their development as teachers by giving them valuable knowledge that will be useful in their practicums and future classrooms.



in·spire
[in'spī(ə)r] verb

1. To fill someone with confidence and desire to do something
2. Fill (someone) with the urge or ability to do or feel something, especially to do something creative

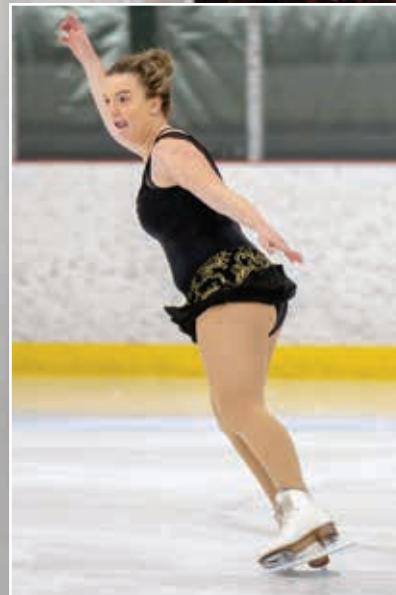
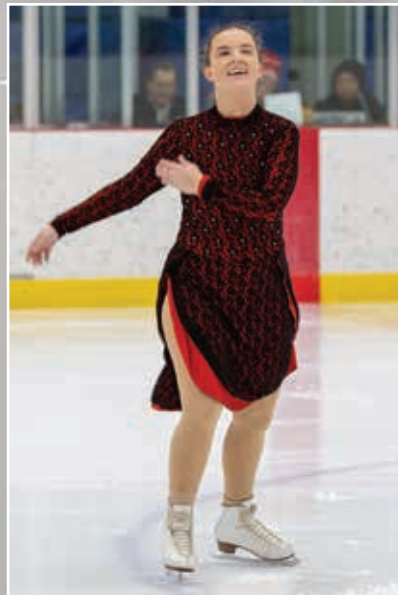
All that glitters is double gold

The 2019 Special Olympics Alberta Winter Games won't soon be forgotten by St. Mary's University student and Special Olympian Kennedy Zaytsoff, whose hard work and dedication resulted in two gold medals in figure skating during the Games, held in Calgary in February 2019.

A fifth-year General Studies student in the Inclusive Post-Secondary Education program, Zaytsoff began skating at the age of five and has taken part in figure skating since the age of seven. She's no stranger to performing on a big stage, having competed previously in the 2013 Special Olympics Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea, where she was also a double gold-medal winner.

While competing in an individual sport can be nerve-wracking, for Zaytsoff it is a chance to do what she loves. She likes the performing aspect of figure skating, and not relying on anybody else. She also appreciates the opportunity to share successes with her peers, and a highlight is seeing her teammates and friends succeeding and having fun.

Zaytsoff was overjoyed to win two gold medals, and relieved that her hard work in training paid off. She also credits family and friends for helping her focus on her skating, because their amazing support enables her to be more relaxed and comfortable on the ice.



A mission to make a lasting impact through one million acts of kindness

Driven by a passion to make a difference in the lives of children and a personal goal to perform “one million acts of kindness,” St. Mary’s program alumna and B.Ed. student Rosie Grady balances a full-time job, a full course load, practicum placements and raising two beautiful children to pursue her dream of becoming a teacher.

Grady’s journey to the head of the classroom began with foundational life lessons that took her around the globe. Living with her aunt and uncle opened her eyes to the world of humanitarian, mission, relief and development work in Mexico, Romania and Africa.

“Humanitarian work brought me to discover my true calling, a love of children and a desire to become a teacher,” Grady says. “I saw

opportunity for great change to happen in the classroom, where I could continue to work as I had done overseas and continue to invest in the lives of children.”

That Grady is on the right life path has been confirmed time and again at St. Mary’s, as she has received numerous awards and bursaries that have helped ease financial burdens. “St. Mary’s is like a family that has celebrated every one of my successes and supported every step of my journey,” she says.

“I wish to pay this type of commitment forward in the students I teach. I wish to ... pour into children’s lives the same way that all of my teachers and supporters have poured into mine.”



Rosie Grady (left) accepts an award at the 2018 St. Mary's University Awards Ceremony from Thérèse Takacs, Vice President, Advancement at St. Mary's University.

Achieving academic dreams through strength, courage

Stories of success, tears of joy and hope for the future punctuated the Humanities 101 Celebration of Learning. At this celebration poverty, immigration, depression and other hindrances to education were cast aside as graduates celebrated their strength, courage and determination — and the culmination of journeys that are also new beginnings.

St. Mary's University's Humanities 101 program is a strength-based educational program designed to help low-income adults who have experienced barriers to learning. Teachers and tutors create a profoundly safe and welcoming space where adults with a diverse range of life and educational experiences are provided with the skills needed for a more hopeful future.



Students in St. Mary's Humanities 101 program have every reason to smile as they mark their academic success at a Celebration of Learning.

An inspirational success

Levia Quequezana's academic path to the St. Mary's Convocation stage — where on May 10, 2019, she received her B.Ed. degree alongside fellow graduates — is nothing short of remarkable. The mother of six from Peru was dealing with the many challenges of moving to Canada and found her experience in the Humanities 101 program to be life-changing. Enabling her to recognize her talents and capacities, the program strengthened her values in her new homeland and, most importantly, inspired her to believe in herself. She credits scholarship support for making her B.Ed. possible, and for changing her life and that of other students as well.



Levia Quequezana receiving her B.Ed. degree certificate from Dr. Sarah Twomey, Dean of Education at St. Mary's University.

St. Mary's Award for Teaching Excellence: Dr. Matthew Clay

The Award for Teaching Excellence recognizes faculty who demonstrate outstanding teaching practices that enhance learning experiences for students, and promote and support excellence in teaching.

Dr. Matthew Clay, Chair of Natural and Mathematical Sciences, is passionate about the ways in which students can best learn — especially in the famously difficult organic chemistry course. He has implemented a “flipped” class model for organic chemistry that includes extensive student group work and facilitation. Students have exhibited remarkable gains in problem-solving and content application through this innovative approach, and have built on their skills for learning in other courses in the Biology program.



Dr. Matthew Clay (left) receiving the St. Mary's Award for Teaching Excellence from Dr. Norman Knowles, Dean of Arts and Sciences, at the 2018 St. Mary's University convocation ceremony.



Dr. Paolina Seitz (left) receiving the Dr. David Lawless Award for Scholarly Achievement from Dr. Sarah Twomey, Dean of Education, at the 2018 St. Mary's University convocation ceremony.

Dr. David Lawless Award for Scholarly Achievement: Dr. Paolina Seitz

The Dr. David Lawless Award for Scholarly Achievement is presented annually to a member of the full-time faculty in recognition of major scholarly achievements.

Dr. Paolina Seitz is an Assistant Professor, Education. She specializes in curriculum alignment, student assessment, cognition and effective leadership in school administration, and has shown remarkable initiative and success in forming collaborative research partnerships and obtaining funding. She is co-investigator with partners from the University of Alberta, University of Calgary and Calgary Catholic School District in a project investigating students' social emotional well-being, and with St. Mary's colleague Dr. Laurie Hill in a project to support Tsuut'ina Nation teachers.

Capping off a successful year by showcasing student work

St. Mary's University students in the final year of several programs have an important opportunity to both showcase and expand their knowledge.

Capstone projects mark the culmination of students' four-year academic and intellectual experience, and each student creates, develops, leads and completes a unique project, with faculty support. Doing so encourages students to think critically, solve challenging problems, develop oral communication and public speaking skills, expand research abilities and raise the quality of work through collaboration.



In addition to building on the knowledge and skills they have learned in the first years of their programs, graduating students benefit immensely from managing a project that is their own, taking the initiative and ownership for its successful outcome.

Students' projects are shared with the St. Mary's and wider communities in capstone conferences, which showcase what students have learned and highlight the conclusions drawn from a wide range of individual projects

Biology students explore the natural world



In the Bachelor of Science – Biology program, 19

students took part in the Biology Student Capstone Conference on April 12, 2019, displaying a profound understanding of the scientific and learning processes. A diverse range of interests and investigations was shared.



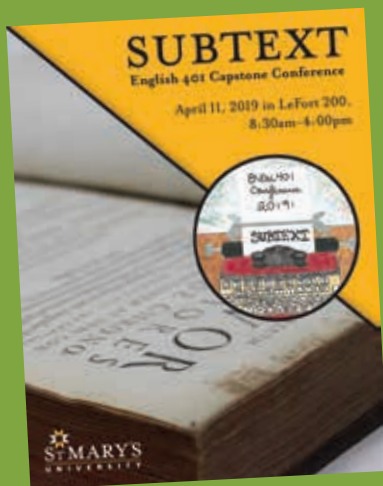
1. Participate or become involved in
2. To interest someone in something and keep them thinking about it
3. To draw into; involve

Student projects bring history to life

On April 11, 2019, graduating Bachelor of Arts – History students presented their capstone projects to peers, faculty and guests. Their projects reflected a wide variety of student interests:

- The Camouflage Altar: Canadian Military Chaplains and the First World War
- Making Homes, Creating Families, and Building Communities, Gender and Domesticity in the North-West Territories, 1880-1910
- Tom Thomson, The Man, The Myth, The Invention: Examining Developments in the Cultural Identity of Canada's Most Beloved Artist
- The Ninety Year Response: Liberalism, Revolution, and Infallibility
- Hot Protestants and Clandestine Catholics: Religious Tropes and the Framing of the English Civil War in Public Discourse

Exploring the English Subtext



Graduating Bachelor of Arts – English students delved into a variety of deep and complex issues in the English 401 capstone conference held on April 11, 2019. Subtext was the title of a robust day-long conference that encapsulated 13 projects that were relevant, timely and thought-provoking.

Panel sessions focused on individual projects in four thematic areas:

- Combating the Female Disposition
- Aesthetics of Power
- Imagining the Past
- Hybrid Identities

Do some White-crowned Sparrows sing with a different dialect?

Student Caitlin Sloof spends a lot of time hiking and camping in the Rocky Mountains, and is an avid world traveller. She wondered if an isolated population of White-crowned Sparrows would start singing with a different dialect than other White-crowned Sparrows, because of that isolation. In June 2019, she presented her project poster at the American Ornithological Society conference in Anchorage, Alaska.



Would advance quizzes help students with their experiments?

Student Dylan Thompson created online Moodle quizzes for the Organic Chemistry I and II laboratory courses for his project. His goal was to create quizzes for students to complete prior to attending an experiment each week, with the aim of familiarizing students with new laboratory concepts and procedures. The format of the quizzes was based upon successful quiz models found in the literature he reviewed.



Hearts on display by President's Volunteer Team

Over the past year, many St. Mary's students, staff and faculty generously gave their time, talent and energy to serve others in Calgary as members of the President's Volunteer Team. The group, which launched in 2017, is a powerful way to develop compassionate citizens who seek the common good in whatever sector they eventually live out their vocation. By making a positive difference in the lives of others, participants learn they also make a difference in their own.



From individuals volunteering with organizations such as the Providence Centre, to collecting clothes for Pass It On, to larger groups serving dinner to guests at Feed the Hungry and the Mustard Seed, to readers performing in the annual L'Arche Christmas Pageant hosted at St. Mary's, the President's Volunteer Team proves the value of service — and its power to change lives.

Helping feed the hungry

President's Volunteer Team members helped Feed the Hungry by preparing Sunday dinner. The program offered by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary offers a Sunday dinner 49 weeks of the year at St. Mary's Parish Hall.

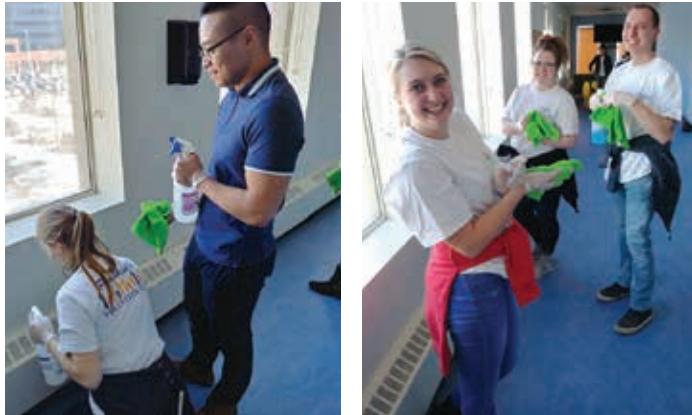


serve
[sûrv] *verb*

1. To be of assistance to or promote the interests of; aid
2. To act toward (another) in a specified way
3. To give homage and obedience to

Sprucing up Inn from the Cold

Some muscle power and elbow grease — and a determined group of President's Volunteer Team members — helped warm up Inn from the Cold on March 5, 2019. Team members cleaned walls, floors and stairwells, and also helped organize several areas of the shelter.



Passing on winter warmth

Pass It On helps ensure Calgary families in need have warm fall and winter clothing and footwear, and PVT members collected coats to be given away at this annual event. Begun by St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church, Pass It On now operates in partnership with the Calgary Catholic School District, the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society and other organizations.



Campus blooms with volunteer spirit

St. Mary's University has a beautiful campus, which was made all the more so when volunteers came together in the early summer to lend their talents to the gardens and greenery. The group's efforts strengthen the University community — and truly put their pride in St. Mary's on display for all to see and enjoy.



Lightning light up another successful year

The St. Mary's Lightning teams and student athletes continued to score successes on courts, fields, pitches — and classrooms — during the past year. Combining their passion for sport and academics, student athletes gain skills and abilities that will be invaluable in future personal and professional pursuits.

St. Mary's hosts first cross-country event

St. Mary's University hosted its first-ever on-campus competitive event, an Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference Grand Prix, on Sept. 12, 2018. The event was also opened up to area high schools and the community, with runners taking to campus trails and pathways over multiple distances. The event's success sparked interest from local high school cross-country running coaches, and the University hopes to be able to host more runs in the future.



Championing champions

The Lightning Champions program was created in 2018–19 to help ensure that St. Mary's athletes have every opportunity to develop as leaders in athletics, academics and service to the community. Donations to the new fund will enhance Lightning Athletic programs by supporting travel, equipment, program enhancements, sport science support and more. The program is a key way for members of St. Mary's extended family to be part of the team — helping to build a strong Athletic legacy while also cheering on athletes as they strive to realize their potential in the classroom, in competition and in the community.

com·pete

[kəm-pēt'] verb

1. (often foll by: with) to contend (against) for athletic supremacy, an award, etc
2. To engage in a contest with; measure oneself against others
3. To strive to outdo another

Making noise for mental health

A mobile pep rally brought members of the St. Mary's University community and Lightning student athletes together on Jan. 31, 2019, to support the Make Some Noise for Mental Health initiative. This Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) awareness campaign aims to break down the stigma associated with mental health challenges. It recognizes that everyone can struggle with mental health concerns, and that keeping the doors open to conversations about mental health, and listening to others, is essential for building empathy and understanding. The rally concluded with a wide-ranging discussion about stigma featuring Dr. Matt Brown, a prominent mental trainer and sports psychologist who works closely with the Calgary Flames and the Calgary Hitmen.



Athletes of the Year

In addition to celebrating the achievements of St. Mary's top athletes, the Lightning's Annual Awards Banquet also featured two special guests, ACAC President and Calgary Booster Club Board Members Mark Kosak and Alexis Peters, to announce a new partnership between the Calgary Booster Club to provide scholarships to the Athletes of the Year.



Male Athlete of the Year

Cordell Minniffee
Men's Basketball
Liberal Arts



Female Athlete of the Year

Rebecca Johnson
Cross-Country and Indoor Track
Bachelor of Education (Elementary)

Respected academic named CWL Chair for Catholic Studies

Dr. Peter Baltutis, Associate Professor of History and Religious Studies, was appointed the CWL Chair for Catholic Studies at St. Mary's University on November 21, 2018. He is the second academic leader from the University to hold the post, following the retirement of Dr. Michael Duggan. Funded by an endowment created by the Catholic Women's League, this academic position encourages and fosters the advancement of Catholic knowledge and education through teaching and research. Dr. Baltutis's research focuses on history and theology of modern Catholicism, Canadian religious history, Catholic social teaching, the Second Vatican Council, European political and diplomatic history and community service-learning. He is also the President-General of the Canadian Catholic Historical Association.



New degree program blends Social Justice, Catholic Studies



In February, St. Mary's launched a unique interdisciplinary degree program, which accepts its first cohort of students in the Fall 2019 semester: the Bachelor of Arts in Social Justice and Catholic Studies.

Combining critical reflection on the structural injustices that characterize society, both locally and globally, while also promoting Catholicism's holistic vision of justice and peace, the program embodies St. Mary's University's mission and values.

The program blends academic and experiential learning — exploring history, politics, faith, Indigenous culture, society, the arts, and much more — enabling students to acquire the critical, analytical and ethical skills needed to live and work responsibly in an increasingly integrated global community. A 120-hour capstone project in the final year of the BA will be the highlight of students' academic journey.

Graduates will be prepared to handle complex problems in the non-profit and private sectors, and to make a real difference in the world in areas such as education, non-governmental organizations, social services, law, business, health care and more.

en·rich

[in'riCH,en'riCH] *verb*

1. Improve or enhance the quality or value of
2. To make fuller, more meaningful, or more rewarding
3. To add to the beauty or character of

Illuminating beautiful letters in the St. John's Bible

The history of illuminated books and manuscripts dates back millennia, adding art and beauty to text to create singular tomes rich in impact and meaning. On Nov. 8, 2018, renowned lettering artist and printmaker Suzanne Moore provided an insider's perspective on creating contemporary interpretive illustrations for St. Mary's University's St. John's Heritage Bible, the first handwritten and illuminated Bible created in 500 years.

Moore was one of only three Americans on the team creating the Bible's stunning images. In addition to providing insight into the scale, logistics, creativity and complexity of 21st century manuscript production, and a display of works at the Mauro Gallery in the St. Mary's water tower, Moore led a full-day workshop, "Illuminating Letters: Traditional and Contemporary."



New Director of Campus Ministry helps people discover life's purpose

Dr. Lance Dixon was named Director of Campus Ministry at St. Mary's University in September of 2018, sharing with the University community a passion for helping people discover their life purpose and empowering them to fulfill it.

Dr. Dixon is fascinated by Catholic Social Teaching, which essentially defines social justice as the "constitutive" element of Jesus' message. He embraces St. Mary's rich heritage, encompassed by free and honest discourse in a diverse community dedicated to serving society for the common good. He finds no greater fulfillment than helping others develop a sense of belonging in this vibrant community.

As someone of mixed racial heritage, Dr. Dixon is keenly sensitive to the struggle for inclusion. He spent his early childhood in Detroit, where his father served as priest in the historic St. Mathew-St. Joseph (Anglican) Church, the last refuge along the underground railroad for Black slaves before reaching the Canadian border.

He lived for many years in South Africa in his youth, coming to Canada to complete his post-secondary education and feeling the spiritual call to serve as a parish priest. He completed graduate studies in Religious Education and later his Doctor of Ministry degree, focusing on ways in which people are formed to become agents of social transformation. In Toronto, Dr. Dixon served on various ecumenical and social justice organizations, while also establishing a mission-monastic house, the Jeremiah Community.

Deeply influenced by the movement of political liberation and social reconciliation he experienced in South Africa, Dr. Dixon returned to South Africa as a lecturer at Transfiguration Theological College, which was founded by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. He, his wife and three daughters, subsequently moved to Alberta to begin teaching full-time in Catholic education. Most recently, he supported teachers and principals as Religious Education and Family Life consultant for the Calgary Catholic School District.



*Dr. Lance Dixon,
Director of Campus Ministry*

Spiritual Wellness: The gift of a companion in our search for meaning

Dr. Lance Dixon interviewed Fr. Charles Pottie-Pate, who is working alongside Campus Ministry to support spiritual wellness at St. Mary's. Following are excerpts from that conversation.

Can you tell us a little about yourself?

I've actually spent most of my life in what we call the teaching apostolate, or teaching mission. ... I was, and still am, the only Jesuit in Alberta when I arrived about eight years ago. I was attracted to St. Mary's University right away, always having been part of a university community. I love teaching and learning.

A lot of our time at university is spent trying to prepare for a bigger life purpose. ... How do you help others find what makes life meaningful for them?

Well, vocation literally means "calling." So, the question is simple: What do you feel called to do with your life? Hearing the answer, though, can be more complicated. ... So we discover our vocation as we reflect on what direction our gifts and life experiences are taking us.

What relevance does [liturgy] have to the average Joe walking down the street?

Liturgy ... literally means "service of the people." Where it makes sense, I think, is tying it to the very human habit of ritual. Ritual is expressing, through tangible ways, our lived experiences. This, in a sense, is what the sacramental life of the church is all about. Rituals exist to help us get in touch with the meaning of life. It's about marking and celebrating our lived experience of God's story of grace and redemption through history.

Tell us about your role here at St. Mary's

My role is part of the university's initiative to create an environment of holistic wellness. The invitation was to work alongside the campus ministry office in support of spiritual wellness. This really resonates with me, because I see my role as being a companion for others on the spiritual journey. Really, my whole purpose on campus is to accompany people in their search for deeper meaning.



Dr. Charles Pottie-Pate, sj

The art is in the making — and the sharing

Talented artist Tamara Lee-Anne Cardinal hosted the fourth and final Artist-in-Residence workshop at St. Mary's in August 2019, which, thanks to the partnership with Calgary Arts Development, saw people from across the University and the wider community learn to make artisanal paper.

The involved and extensive process — from gathering bark and natural materials, to soaking, adhering, layering framing and drying — was detailed and meticulously planned by Cardinal, taking participants from concept through completion.

The finished works created will be transformed by Cardinal into a larger work of art, representing St. Mary's eight-point star, which will be installed on campus in a location yet to be determined.

A multimedia artist, community activist, oskâpêwis and lifelong learner, Cardinal lives in Treaty 7 territory within Mohkînstsis (Calgary). She is passionate about art and also about engaging the community in the process, and is excited by the opportunity to have the results of this workshop become part of the fabric of St. Mary's and its continuing story.



*St. Mary's Director of Indigenous Initiatives (L)
with artist Tama Lee-Anne Cardinal*

re·spect
[rə'spekt] verb

1. Admire (someone or something) deeply, as a result of their abilities, qualities or achievements
2. To pay proper attention to; not violate
3. To show consideration for; treat courteously or kindly

Expanding Inuit knowledge

Through the efforts of Evelyn Good Striker, one of St. Mary's advising Traditional Knowledge Keepers, Inuit Knowledge Keeper Goota Desmarais graciously agreed to come to St. Mary's to help faculty and students in the University's Bachelor of Education program grow and learn how to incorporate Inuit knowledge and perspectives into their teaching more effectively.

A two-day, culturally rich workshop, Indigenous Culture and Teachings, was supported by a Teaching Quality Standards Grant from Alberta Education.

Participants attended this impactful gathering with open hearts and minds, inviting Desmarais to share cultural knowledge that she felt was important for teachers to know about Inuit culture, history, contemporary issues and her own experiences.

Desmarais was generous in sharing herself — including speaking about deep and painful truths — her culture and even her raw food (enabling participants to taste caribou, narwhal, bow whale and arctic char). She spoke with a powerful voice and through the voice of Elders, who supported her work.

This one of a kind learning experience is a key facet in helping to empower instructors, so they can direct students resources that can help inform their practice and to incorporate teachings about the Inuit in their own classrooms.

Knowledge-sharing initiatives such as this are integral to reconciliation, and to learning the often-challenging history of Canada.



Generosity gives Homeless Jesus a new home on St. Mary's campus

Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz's famous *Homeless Jesus*, a beautiful and emotionally powerful bronze sculpture, has a new home outside the front doors of St. Basil's Hall Library, thanks to the generosity of the Ranaghan Foundation.

The Foundation honours the enormous and foundational contributions Maureen Ranaghan has made to St. Mary's for more than two decades. Bringing this profoundly meaningful work of art to the campus reflects the University's passion for social justice for developing the caring and compassionate leaders of tomorrow.

Homeless Jesus is a visual representation of Matthew 25, suggesting that Christ is with the most marginalized in society. The figure is completely covered in a blanket, and only the wounds on the feet indicate that it is Jesus.

The sculpture is a conversation starter and a reminder that everyone in society needs to care for one another, to set aside judgments and to be open to helping others, and to view those who live on the streets and are disadvantaged as brothers and sisters.



On May 31, 2019 Maureen Ranaghan was on hand for the official unveiling of the Homeless Jesus statue.



A Legacy of Giving

A planned gift to St. Mary's is one that lives forever

Since its founding, St. Mary's University has benefited from visionary donors whose planned gifts have helped shape the University and its people. From the beginning, the Lebels were passionate about uplifting the value of a higher Catholic education. They were champions and founding members who stood out for their hard work, passion and commitment, and volunteered their time and efforts to support programs, services and supports that nurture their personal, academic and spiritual development.

In 2018, St. Mary's University was a recipient of an extraordinarily generous gift from the couple's estate that will forever transform the landscape of the University. The gift from the Estate of Therese Lebel allowed St. Mary's to expand St. Basil's Hall Library by building two new, urgently needed classrooms. The construction of the new classroom wing in the Library was completed in time to support an additional cohort in St. Mary's remarkable Bachelor of Education degree program.

The Lebels' daughter Louise now honours her parents' legacy by supporting the mission of a University that was at the heart of her parents' philanthropic passions. Louise volunteers on the St. Mary's University President's Dinner committee and proves how a legacy gift can positively impact the education of generations of students far beyond a lifetime. The gift from the Lebel family is inspiring and has enabled the University to address space challenges that meet the growing population of students. St. Mary's University students and community is deeply grateful for the vision and the goodwill that the Lebel Family extended on behalf of students. The Lebel family legacy and the impact of their generosity has been transformational on this campus and it will continue to do so for many years to come.



"Both mom and dad were passionate about education and Catholicism. They wanted to give those opportunities to as many people as possible. St. Mary's University was a perfect marriage of both. They would be very impressed and proud to see the campus thriving as it is today."

Louise and sister Margo Lebel

Sharing a celebration of success

Students, parents, friends, faculty and staff of St. Mary's University came together on Friday, May 10, 2019 to share in the most joy-filled and exuberant celebration of the year: Convocation.

The day marks a milestone in each students' life journeys and their transformation into alumni ready to make an impact on the world — and to make that world a better place for all. They go forward well prepared to be leaders and change makers, able to take everything

they learned and experienced at St. Mary's and apply it meaningfully in their workplaces and communities.

More than 100 students were awarded degrees conferred by the St. Mary's Chancellor, His Excellency Most Reverend William T. McGrattan, Bishop of Calgary.



cel·e·brate

[ˈsɛləˌbrɑːt] *verb*

1. To rejoice in or have special festivities to mark (a happy day, event, etc.)
2. To extol or praise
3. To make widely known



Order of Excellence recognizes long-standing contribution

Dr. Allan Markin is one of Canada's most recognized philanthropists, and his transformational impact on the community, and St. Mary's specifically, is reflected in the award of the prestigious Order of Excellence. A highly successful business and community leader, Dr. Markin has turned his considerable talents to improving lives through a variety of innovative initiatives which have been widely recognized. His 20-year affiliation with St. Mary's includes milestone events, most notably securing the beautiful 35-acre site that is St. Mary's permanent home. Dr. Markin has been a driving force promoting the value of a liberal arts education, helping students overcome financial barriers, and providing financial support that has inspired others to do so as well.



Order of Excellence recipient Dr. Allan Markin addresses graduates and guests at Convocation.

Beloved, respected professor named Professor Emeritus

Dr. Michael Duggan closed a long and distinguished chapter of his academic life in 2018 when he retired from St. Mary's University. The deep respect he earned for his teaching, research and community service was recognized at Convocation on May 10, 2019, when he was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus.

One of Canada's most distinguished biblical scholars, Dr. Duggan is an internationally recognized authority on the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, and the author of one of the most widely adopted introductory texts on the Hebrew Scriptures as well as dozens of journal articles, conference papers, reviews and abstracts. He was the first to hold St. Mary's CWL Chair for Catholic Studies.

Dr. Duggan left an indelible mark on St. Mary's through his passion for social justice, bridging friendship and understanding among Christians, Jews and Muslims, and opening conversations on the Church and issues facing the modern world. He was a caring, thoughtful, inspiring and generous teacher who brought biblical texts alive and challenged students to see themselves in the story of God's people.



Dr. Michael Duggan is awarded the title of Professor Emeritus by Vice-President, Academic, Dr. Tara Hyland-Russell.

Honorary Fellow of St. Mary's makes vital contributions to advance, promote the University

Terry McCoy was bestowed the title of Honorary Fellow of St. Mary's University at Convocation on May 10, 2019. He joins a small, select group of individuals to receive the University's highest honour for their conspicuous efforts to form and advance St. Mary's and to serve the wider community.

The recently retired Chief Executive Officer of Arcan Resources Ltd., McCoy spent more than 40 years in various capacities in all facets of the energy industry. During his long and stellar career, he also served on numerous private and non-profit boards.



McCoy's 16-year tenure with St. Mary's began with his appointment to the Board of Governors in 2003. He was subsequently instrumental in leading the development of a Strategic Plan that crystallized vision and mission statements which guide the University today. He is a colleague, friend and mentor who exemplifies the spirit of St. Mary's through his leadership, community service and dedication.



Guiding words for grads' future

Convocation is a time to celebrate a journey completed, and to look forward to the many avenues open for the future. St. Mary's President Dr. Gerry Turcotte used this milestone moment in 2019 to share a few words, excerpted below, to help guide graduates on the paths ahead.

The 'soft' approach triumphs

The famed cartoonist Garry Trudeau once said that the purpose of Convocation speeches was to ensure that no graduate was sent out into the world unless they were properly sedated. The reality, though, is that virtually all the speeches remind our graduates that they need to go out into the world ready to make a difference.

Rather than sedative, we provide stimulants: a confirmation that our students have agency and that the antidote to the divisiveness and combativeness of the present age is dialogue and action, hope and goodwill.

Another major message is that, as graduates of a liberal arts university, they need to reject labelling that they are masters of the soft skills. There is something insidious about labelling the difficult skills of negotiation, encounter, problem-solving and community-building, as soft.

There is nothing soft about an ability to think creatively and outside the box by drawing on complex philosophies, theologies, theories and outstanding scholarship. ... Our students will never transform a child's life in the classroom with an equation. They won't create dialogue for divided groups with a formula. And they certainly won't solve crisis by building a wall.

Only a depth of understanding — the really hard skills that a rigorous liberal arts education provides — will equip them to make a difference. Indeed, it is only diplomacy and communication and a generous faith that can connect a divided world.

I am reminded of this on a regular basis by two contemporary thinkers, Pope Francis and the late Jean Vanier. Both of these giants urged us, through example, to embrace tenderness and to move towards the peripheries, not as tourists but as permanent residents.

Pope Francis' message has been clear, including in a recent, and surprising, TED Talk, when he called for a "revolution of tenderness" and made the point that "tenderness is not weakness." He went on to say tenderness "is fortitude. ... The more powerful you are, the more your actions will have an impact on people, the more responsible you are to act humbly."

For Vanier, "We discover how we can be healed by those who are the most vulnerable. It's not a question of going out and doing good to them; rather, receiving the gift of their presence transforms us."

We are used to the trope from Hollywood where the hero stitches his own wounds ... and stands victorious, and we act as though this is something wonderful. But true courage is in turning the other cheek, of placing dialogue ahead of conflict.

To go one step further and enter the world of the wounded, of the injured, and to live there as a soulmate is surely the most complex thing of all.

It is instructive to see how ... understanding, self-humbling or compromise ... are labelled by society as weakness and soft skills. But it is even more inspiring to see how giants prove so conclusively that the opposite is true.

Hopefully this is a message new graduates can legitimately take out into the world as they prepare to change it for the better.

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