

This issue

As St. Mary's University begins the 2017 – 2018 school year, we take this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of our students and faculty to reflect on our institutional growth and set goals for the coming year.

In this issue we introduce you to some of the students, faculty and donors whose commitment and dedication to social justice has left an indelible mark on St. Mary's and helped shape a legacy of working in communion for the common good of all.

We begin by celebrating Bachelor of Arts, Psychology student Jade Coultman who was named the inaugural winner of the St. Mary's Pitch Derby and was awarded third place at the Calgary Stampede Innovation Rodeo Pitch Derby.

This issue also spotlights the newly formed President's Volunteer Team, a collection of student, staff and faculty volunteers committed to helping the community through various social justice initiatives.

We invite you to join us as we celebrate these amazing accomplishments as well as the profound difference your support has made for our students, faculty and staff as we strive towards creating passionate, engaged citizens of the world.

Pitch Perfect

Innovative Pitch Derby provides St. Mary's student with invaluable experience

Jade Coultman, who is pursuing her Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Psychology and minor in Business Management, was named the winner of the inaugural St. Mary's University Pitch Derby with

to attend a deaf leadership youth camp where she was tasked with becoming a leader of change in her community.



Jade Coultman, winner of the St. Mary's Pitch Derby, photographed at the Calgary International airport where she also served as an advisor on accessibility design.

"This is allowing me say my piece on a much bigger scale."

As part of St. Mary's University's ongoing Inspiring Conversations series students and alumni were invited to an event in February entitled 'It's Everybody's Business', an entrepreneurship start-up initiative aimed at helping with start-up ideas and instruction on how to build a business proposal and pitch.

This interactive and exploratory workshop provided students with valuable insight into what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur, how to fund and finance a venture, marketing as well as many other topics aimed at

providing an in-depth analysis of what is needed to launch a new business venture.

As the winner of the St. Mary's Pitch Derby, Coultman's pitch was automatically entered into the Innovation Rodeo at the 2017 Calgary Stampede where 'Jade's Camp' earned third place honours.

When you support St. Mary's University, you are contributing to the innovative initiatives undertaken by our students. Your generous support provides the resources vital to reaching unprecedented excellence in academics and provide our students with the best possible post-secondary education experience.

her proposal of 'Jade's Camp' — a camp designed for children aged 7-18 who are deaf and hard of hearing. The goal of the camp is to offer accessible communication and to foster inclusion.

The weekend summer camps would provide workshops for professionals, parents and family as well as those individuals who are or know someone who is deaf or hard of hearing, in an accessible facility in every province for people with disabilities.

"I got this idea because I am hard of hearing myself, so growing up I never had the opportunity to go to camp with other kids who are just like me," explained Coultman, who in 2005 was sponsored by the Alberta Association of the Deaf

President's Message

As we conclude celebrations marking our 30th anniversary as an educational institution we are able to look back at the monumental moments and initiatives that have continued to showcase St. Mary's University as a leader in higher education.

St. Mary's focus on and commitment to social justice has inspired many initiatives on our campus that have had a far reaching effect. From the creation of the President's Volunteer Team whose mission is to connect and increase volunteer opportunities that address community needs and develop a lifetime commitment to service, to our award-winning Humanities 101 program that demonstrates the importance of compassion, the value of education, and the power to make a difference, we remain steadfast in our pledge to cultivate thoughtful, ethical and engaged students. This would not be possible without the philanthropic contributions and the investments made by so many.

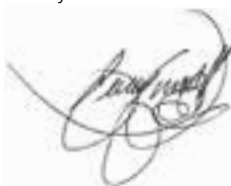
At St. Mary's we strive to provide our students with a superior learning experience by offering the best of a Liberal Arts and Sciences



education with a commitment to academic excellence, student success, ethics and social justice — all within the context of our 2000-year-old Catholic Intellectual tradition. We invest in initiatives that enhance learning opportunities for our students and this is in large part due to the support we receive from the community and our donors. Through the community's generosity we are able to continue to ensure that our students have access to awards and bursaries that allow them to focus on our studies. The great faith these investments show in our students, their future and St. Mary's University is truly humbling.

May the stories in this issue of the Marian Update help you discover how your commitment and investment inspire so many to have a remarkable learning experience that will lead to career and life successes. It is my hope that these

stories inspire and motivate you to support St. Mary's University in a way that is most meaningful to you.



Gerry Turcotte, PhD
President

A community united

A brisk fall morning provided the perfect backdrop for a rather monumental occasion as members of the StMU Lightning CIBC Run for the Cure team gathered, ready to run or walk, in support of putting an end to breast cancer.

Forty seven members of the St. Mary's team raised a total of \$5093, a total that was announced later in the day as the highest total in the Post-Secondary Challenge, making St. Mary's the victors.

While the fundraising competition was all for a good cause, the fact that St. Mary's was victorious spoke volumes about the university's commitment to social justice, the dedication and character of the members of the St. Mary's community according to Nathan Ruff, Athletics Manager and the Lightning men's basketball head coach at St. Mary's University.

"Being a tight-knit community, the events that we do resonate with our community whether that be students, staff or faculty. All of our community was out to support this cause and this event and it was something really special to see and to be a part of," said Ruff.

Marsha Kuchelema, Registrar with St. Mary's University, has been involved in the Run for the Cure since 2008, but the 2017 race held a deeper personal significance.



Members of the St. Mary's community participated in the 2017 CIBC Run for the Cure.

"As a recent breast cancer survivor the personal support I have received from St. Mary's is incredible," said Kuchelema. "Breast cancer impacts the lives of so many and the simple act of raising money or walking to show support to raise awareness was demonstrated by St. Mary's this year."

Introducing the Vetsch Family Courtyard

On October 25, 2017, St. Mary's University community gathered to celebrate the outstanding contributions, leadership and continued support the Vetsch Family has shown to the University. The support from the Vetsch Family has provided a direct impact on the lives of all students and inspires programs that continue to make St. Mary's a remarkable educational environment. Students are able to focus on their studies in the most inspiring spaces like the new Heritage Centre, one of many projects the Vetsch Family has generously provided funding for.

Along with the staff and faculty, St. Mary's University President Dr. Gerry Turcotte unveiled the newly named Vetsch Family Courtyard. Students were present to show their appreciation and share this profound moment with Mr. and Mrs. Vetsch and their family. In a heartfelt thank you speech Jaden Baragar — a second year student in the Bachelor of Education program and StMU Bachelor of Arts Graduate — expressed her sincere gratitude to the Vetsch family for their generous and continued support of St. Mary's.

"Mr. and Mrs. Vetsch – my experiences here have been impacted by your support and they are another example of how you are shaping our futures! You have made an invaluable impact that has allowed St. Mary's to maintain its high standard of excellence, to establish important community collaborations and to further strengthen the foundation of our academic experiences. Your investment is



The Vetsch Family.

especially significant because it reflects your belief in me, in other students and in our university. Thank you for believing in us, for supporting us, and for shaping our future." Jaden Baragar

On behalf of all St. Mary's University students and community – we are deeply grateful for the vision and the goodwill that the Vetsch Family continues to extend on behalf of our students. The impact of their generosity has been transformational on this campus and it will continue to do so for many years to come.



Lightning Athletics set for strong year

Fresh off of their second ACAC silver medal in as many years the Lightning Women's Basketball team heads into the 2017-18 season with a strong squad, looking to further cement their status as one of the premier programs in the league.

The Lightning are quickly developing our athletic programs into top tier powerhouses. The Women's team are currently ranked 4th in the country in the first poll of the 2017-18 year and will be looking to punch their ticket to the national championship tournament this March. The Lightning Cross-Country program will also be featured at Nationals for the fourth year in a row. First-year Bachelor of Education student Rebecca Johnson qualified for Nationals after finishing in 4th place at the ACAC championships securing her spot and was also awarded a first team all-conference award.

Donors have a positive impact on the life of a student athlete when they support St. Mary's many initiatives, awards, programs, and

scholarships. Awards such as the Jim Look Memorial Scholarship, the Calgary Juventus Scholarships and the Calgary Italian Sportsmen Dinner Association Scholarship help St. Mary's student athletes as they work to achieve their academic, athletic and personal goals.



A commitment to service through the **President's Volunteer Team**

St. Mary's University has launched an exciting new initiative this year as a way to help coordinate charitable volunteer efforts and increase the scope and impact that these endeavours will have on the community.

The President's Volunteer Team was born from the idea that as a community united, St. Mary's students, faculty and staff can work alongside those in need while learning what it truly means to be a servant of the community. The Team's mission is to connect and increase volunteer opportunities that address community needs and develop a lifetime commitment to service.

"It is my belief that human beings are created to be in community with each other, share with one another and to connect with one another," explained Nancy Quan, Director of Campus Ministry at St. Mary's University. "In an ideal world, no person is excluded."

St. Mary's features a dynamic and active student body whose commitment to social justice and dedication to the community is second to none. The President's Volunteer Team is a way for us as an institution to signal that giving back is a key part of St. Mary's mission for everyone on campus – from students to the President.

Through the President's Volunteer Team we will be able to use the full support of University to organize major volunteering initiatives. From Habitat to Humanity, to Feed the Hungry, Coldest Night of the Year, We Day, the Mustard Seed, and many more causes. Our hope is that this new enterprise will become a movement that will energize not just the St. Mary's University body, but the wider community as well.



The President's Volunteer Team volunteering at Habitat for Humanity.



alongside and learn from the vulnerable people in the world," said Quan. "The President's Volunteer Team



provides students with many and varied opportunities to work together in communion for the common good of all Calgarians."

For St. Mary's University President Dr. Gerry Turcotte, the President's Volunteer team is an extension of the amazing charitable and volunteer work already being done by St. Mary's students.

"The President's volunteer team is an initiative that we are launching in response to the already dynamic and active volunteering that is undertaken on campus by our students," said Dr. Turcotte. "By some estimates we believe over 50 per cent of our students volunteer in some capacity. The President's Volunteer Team is a way to signal that from students to the President, we believe giving back is a key part of the University's mission."

"Through the President's Volunteer Team we will be able to use the full support of the University to organize major volunteering initiatives. Our hope is that this new enterprise will become a movement that will energize not just the St. Mary's University body, but the wider community as well."

At St. Mary's we encourage personal growth both inside and outside of the classroom as we help develop the whole student – mind, body, and spirit. Our students become compassionate, engaged members of society who utilize their time, and efforts to champion causes and initiatives that impact the community in a positive manner.



As a member of the Reserve Force of the Canadian Armed Forces, commitment to service and the ability to give back to the community were already core values for St. Mary's graduate Buddhi Wickramasinghe and so the opportunity to be involved in an initiative like the President's Volunteer Team that has such a large scope was something he felt naturally compelled to join.

"Paying it forward is what we're all about at St. Mary's," explained Wickramasinghe. "I joined because God has given me more than enough, it only made sense to pay it forward and share my happiness."



President's Volunteer Team member Sophie Turcotte with international recording star Jocelyn Alice at the We Day Benefit Concert.



The journey to creating a campus of inclusivity

St. Mary's University's Director of Indigenous Initiatives Michelle Scott had a dream when she joined the institution a few years ago. That dream, to one day raise a tipi in the traditional way on the St. Mary's campus, was realized on Monday, June 19.

Thanks to the guidance and teachings of Blackfoot Elder Randy Bottle, the dream became a reality. With the blessing of the Indigenous Advisory Council, it was deemed that the University was ready for such a significant undertaking.

"It's a big responsibility, I feel the weight of it and the honour of it," said Scott. "That we've been entrusted on this land, this university, to carry a tipi in the traditional way is really significant."

St. Mary's was very fortunate to have Elder Charlie Crow Chief from the Kainai Nation to come and bless the tipi during the ceremony on June 19th as well as gift us with the buttons and pegs he hand crafted with his wife Betty for the lodge.

As part of the tipi raising ceremony, Frank Turning Robe from the Siksika Nation presented St. Mary's with an Honour song, which the school can now use at celebrations going forward.

"Every step has been done following the proper protocols and following the teachings, and now we have this story" explained

Scott. "There are many things that have already happened for us to carry this tipi, but it's only the beginning."

"The tipi is ours, it's not mine, it belongs to the University and it belongs to the land. The more people who feel welcomed here and honour it makes it richer as we go forward"

For recent Métis St. Mary's graduate, Steven Showalter, having the tipi raised on campus is the culmination of a long journey.

"It feels unreal to see the tipi up, it's pretty great," said Showalter. "I've been going here for five years and we've wanted to bring a tipi here but now to see it is unbelievable. It's awesome."

To Showalter the journey was just as important as raising the tipi itself.

"Raising the tipi in the traditional way is the most important part. The journey to get it here has taken years to actually get the tipi up," said Showalter. "To have the Blackfoot Elders here and help us has been good because we're actually doing something not just for show, but for the right reasons."



Under the guidance of and teachings of Blackfoot Elder Randy Bottle, St. Mary's raised a tipi on campus in the traditional Blackfoot way.

"St. Mary's has always been about bringing people in and with Indigenous culture we want to teach people about it in a way that respects the traditional ways but we also want it to be inviting."



Members of St. Mary's erect hand harvested tipi poles.



These hand made buttons were a gift to St. Mary's for the tipi.

Emphasizing the importance of service

Every gift has at least two stories — why a donor chose to give and the tale of lives impacted by this generosity. Mrs. Agnes Cote's story began when she met with Dr. Linda Dudar the former Dean of Education at St. Mary's University and was quite inspired to learn more about what St. Mary's University has to offer. "I think we need more people with greater values. After meeting with Linda, I was excited for the opportunity to support a university that stood for such great values that support nurturing students wholly. I grew up in rural Alberta and I know how hard it was to commute and live in unfamiliar places, find room and board and afford to pay tuition. St. Mary's tight knit community is like a home away from home and this was my opportunity to support another rural Albertan on their educational journey," explained Mrs. Cote.

The newly created Agnes Cote Scholarship supports a graduate from a rural area of Alberta entering the first year of post-secondary studies at St. Mary's University and is involved in activities/leadership within the community and has demonstrated academic excellence.

This year's recipient Marissa Gough is in the 4 Year BSc degree program, majoring in Biology. "I've learned that my scholarship was more than a name on a piece of paper. After meeting Mrs. Cote, I realized that I'm not just going into the field of Biology for myself. I am doing it to carry on the legacy of passionate people who are genuinely invested in supporting others," said Gough.

The Agnes Cote Scholarship is one of many scholarships offered at St. Mary's allowing one in every five students an opportunity to receive an award. Such investment is critical in raising a new generation of scholars that will carry on the tradition to give back through service and charity.



Agnes Cote Scholarship recipient Marissa Gough (left) with Agnes Cote.

New bursaries honour faculty

In recognition of Dr. Howard Hopkins and Dr. Norman Knowles' 20 years of service to St. Mary's University, a bursary was created in their honour and presented at the annual awards ceremony in November.

Each bursary is awarded to a full-time student in good academic standing who is attendance at St. Mary's University during the fall term.

New Knights of Columbus award honours Chancellor Emeritus Frederick B. Henry

This year the Knights of Columbus continues their tradition of supporting academic efforts at St. Mary's University with a special donation. In partnership with the Lyceum Society of Canada, St. Mary's is pleased to announce the Bishop Frederick B. Henry Education Entrance Scholarship. Bishop Henry has been a champion of Catholic education across Canada and throughout his career worked tirelessly to advocate for the poor, defenseless and homeless. This honour and award is in acknowledgment of Bishop Henry's 19 years of service as Chancellor of St. Mary's and is fitting for him as it will annually support students from Calgary Catholic schools entering the Bachelor of Education (Elementary) degree program. Each year the gifts from the Knights of Columbus make our programming special and they are an affirmation of the fraternity's belief in the value of a higher Catholic education.

Since 1992, the Knights of Columbus have funded over half a million dollars of projects at St. Mary's, including the restoration of McGivney Hall, a building which honours the life and vocation of the Knights' founder; the acquisition of our beautiful Altar and Ambo; and numerous scholarships and bursaries. The tireless



Bishop Frederick B. Henry Education Entrance Scholarship recipient Jason Sprinkhuysen (centre) with Knights of Columbus members Gaston Launière (right) and Martin MacDonald.

generosity of the Knights of Columbus affirms their belief in the value of Catholic higher education and has provided a lasting legacy for our students.

Humanities 101 wins second major accolade

St. Mary's University's groundbreaking **Humanities 101** program secured another accolade after winning the Developmental Disabilities Resource Centre of Calgary's (DDRC) Award of Excellence at the DDRC Inclusion Awards earlier this month.

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

Since 1996, the Inclusion Awards have been an important way to recognize the people and organizations that help make Calgary a city where everyone belongs.

"Being nominated for the award, and actually having won it, was a surprise!" said Sabrina Buzzalino, Humanities 101 Program Coordinator at St. Mary's University. "It's great to see the hard work that the instructors, the volunteers and I do be recognized by the broader community in Calgary."

"We all work very hard to ensure that students are provided with a



supportive and challenging learning environment. The award highlights the fact that the students who come through the program face multiple barriers, not just financial ones."

The Humanities 101 program was one of several great initiatives that were celebrated at the Inclusion Awards ceremony, emphasizing the commitment that Calgarians have to making Calgary a more inclusive city.

"It was very humbling to be in the company of others

who champion inclusivity and accessibility for those who face barriers in society," said Buzzalino. "We are all striving to create a place where marginalized Calgarians can increase their skills and capacities for living."

According to Buzzalino the recognition from the DDRC for the Award of Excellence highlights that the Humanities 101 program's reputation of inclusivity and compassion is being recognized by those who need it most.

"Having won the award helps affirm that the program is widely known and recognized in Calgary," said Buzzalino. "Many of the students who come to the class come because they heard about it from a friend or are being referred by community organizations."

Coming Events

1 **Choir Performance: The World for Christmas**

McGivney Hall –
St. Mary's University
Sunday, December 3, Monday
December 4
7:00 p.m.

2 **Open House**

St. Mary's University
Wednesday, February 10

3 **President's Dinner**

with Keynote Speaker Margot Micallef
Gasoline Alley - Heritage Park
Thursday, March 8

DECEMBER
3

FEBRUARY
10

MARCH
8



The *Marian Update* is published by St. Mary's University and distributed to alumni, friends and supporters to celebrate University accomplishments and share news and information throughout the St. Mary's community.

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