

## This issue

*St. Mary's University has become the University of choice for a growing number of students who learn about the spirit of giving and the impact generosity as they pursue academic dreams both in the classroom and in the community around them.*

*This Fall edition focuses on the spirit of giving and generosity, and the impact that our community has on the lives of St. Mary's students and St. Mary's programs.*

*From legacy gifts established to help continuously provide students the opportunity to pursue their post-secondary education, to acts of service and the giving of time through volunteer initiatives, it is this spirit of giving that is the bedrock of what it means to be a part of the St. Mary's University community.*

*None of this would be possible without the support and generosity that donors have shown to our institution. As St. Mary's continues its commitment to fostering critical thinkers who are passionate and compassionate about the world around them, it is the support from our community that makes this possible.*



Members of the St. Mary's President's Volunteer Team volunteering at the Pass It On initiative at Father Lacombe High School on Friday, October 18, 2019.

## The Gift of Service

### *St. Mary's University's President's Volunteer Team continues to make its mark*

Now in its third successful year, the St. Mary's University President's Volunteer Team has seen its numbers continue to grow as more and more students, staff and faculty look to help and serve others.

Already in the 2019-20 academic year, the PVT has undertaken two large initiatives that have seen over 100 members of the St. Mary's University come out in support. To Dr. Lance Dixon, Director of Campus Ministry, this is a credit to the culture being created on campus at St. Mary's.

"Our first-year students are really dynamic, they are engaged, and it's not hard to get them interested in service," said Dr. Dixon. "I think this is a testament to the effort put in when attracting students who appreciate the culture we're trying to foster at St. Mary's. People are creating the energy of service here."

The idea for the PVT this year was to establish an initiative once a month that encompassed the breadth of needs and opportunities in Calgary. To reach out to agencies that could provide St. Mary's students with exposure to the many who live in Calgary and try to survive with situations that are less than ideal.

So far this year the PVT has been involved with Feed the Hungry and the Pass it On initiative, two major efforts that have allowed volunteers to tangibly see the impact that their gift of service can have on the larger community.

The whole idea of the President's Volunteer team is to build a culture of service at St. Mary's University, according to Dr. Dixon, a culture that ultimately benefits everyone, by reaching out and ensuring the common good for every one of our neighbours.

"It all comes back to our theme and our purpose, the idea that we are learning for a greater good," said Dixon. "That our service is not for our benefit. Ultimately the greatest fulfillment comes from serving one another."

"We want to make sure this is about community and about relationships, and that we are able to work together in a sense of community around a cause. If we can create these moments of people setting aside time to work alongside one another to serve others, hopefully it will help really build that mindset of community."

# President's Message

The fall semester is always an exciting time at St. Mary's University as our doors open to fresh faces ready to embark on, or continue their post-secondary educational journeys, make new friends, foster new relationships and commit to new passions.

As classes return to session and labs being to fill, we are reminded of the good fortune we all share to be part of such a wonderful community here at St. Mary's. A community built on inclusion, diversity, dialogue, but most importantly on giving. For we would not be a leader in post-secondary education without the generosity of our community who help make what we do possible each and every day.

This spirit of giving transcends our day-to-day work and resonates far beyond our classrooms and campus, as acts



of service and the giving of time has become the norm at St. Mary's, not the exception. Be it volunteering initiatives or community service, our students, faculty and staff rise to the call and give of their time for the greater good.

May these stories help you discover how your gifts and generosity support, encourage and inspire all members of the St. Mary's community. It is my hope that these stories motivate you to continue your support for St. Mary's University in a way that is most meaningful to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gerry Turcotte".

**Gerry Turcotte, PhD**  
*President*

## Celebrating Generosity at Awards Night

St. Mary's University Awards Ceremony on October 30, 2019 was a night of celebration and recognition for the countless gifts that members of the St. Mary's community have made that have had profound impacts on the lives of students.

It was a night for students to give thanks to those who have allowed them to pursue their post-secondary education while helping to ease the financial burdens of being a student.

For Chris Kibwana, who balances academics with his commitment to service as Student Legislative Council President, these awards and bursaries allow him to have the robust post-secondary experience, without many of the worries.

"Earning a student award has been amazing and relieved plenty of stress from me and my family. I'm extremely thankful for the awards that I received during my time here at St. Mary's and thankful for those who contribute generously. These awards change many students lives and really help students in their pursuit of higher education."

"Being able to focus on my studies and my duties as President and to not have to worry about the financial stressors that come with being in university is certainly a blessing, and one that I am forever grateful for."

St. Mary's University offers an extensive range of scholarships and bursaries that play a vital role in financially assisting a student obtain their post-secondary education. If you would like to make an impact on a student's life, consider a gift today.



*Chris Kibwana receives his Vice-President Student Services Leadership Award from Dr. Tara Hyland-Russell at the 2018 Awards Ceremony.*



# A Legacy of Giving

*A planned gift to St. Mary's University 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 Margo Lebel

If you would like to make a Legacy pledge in your will contact Patience Mbwizhu at [Patience.Mbwizhu@stmu.ca](mailto:Patience.Mbwizhu@stmu.ca) or 403.254.3128 for more information.

# The gift of Education

## Supporting the Humanities 101 Program through Giving Tuesday

Part of the fabric of St. Mary's University is the landmark **Humanities 101** program that, since 2003, has helped cast aside barriers to education faced by people of low-income circumstances to create a safe, welcoming, place where strength, courage, determination and hard work enables people to reach academic goals they may have previously seen as impossible.

For Roxanne Beaton the Humanities 101 program provided her a place to grow, learn and thrive.

"The Humanities 101 program has been inspiring and a great release for a lot of things I've been carrying with me all my life. I can't explain just how much I am indebted to this class," said Beaton. "The Humanities 101 Program is an incredible journey. Through the program I realized that I was worth something, and I gained myself."

In order to help continue to provide this amazing program, St. Mary's relies on the generosity and support from its community.

This year St. Mary's University's Giving Tuesday campaign will be in support of this wonderful program. Giving Tuesday is the global day of giving and volunteering, that takes place each year after Black Friday. It is a movement that harnesses the generosity of the community to help bring about real change by uniting communities and sharing capacity for caring.



Members of the Spring 2019, Humanities 101 Celebration of Learning.

This year Giving Tuesday will be on Tuesday, December 3, we ask that you consider a donation that will go a long way to helping provide the gift of education to those otherwise unable to attain it.

To donate please visit [www.stmu.ca/give](http://www.stmu.ca/give)

## Upcoming Events



**1 The Ghost Wilderness**  
A Dramatic Play  
St. Mary's University  
Friday, Nov 29, Saturday Nov. 30

**3 Celebration of Learning**  
Celebrating the Humanities 101 Graduates  
St. Mary's University  
Thursday, December 5, 2019 5:30 p.m.

**5 President's Dinner**  
Special 25th Anniversary starring Paul Brandt  
Fairmont Palliser Hotel  
Thursday, March 5, 2020

**2 Christmas Concert**  
St. Mary's University  
Sunday, Dec. 1, Monday Dec. 2  
8:00 p.m.

**4 Open House**  
St. Mary's University  
Saturday, February 8, 2020  
10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

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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